BUSINESS / B1
Stock market, peso continue to climb; growth buoyed on credit upgrade

METRO / A17
ABS-CBN reality show producer found dead of stab wounds in QC home

ACROSS / A13
Family of 6 including 4 children hacked to death in Camalig, Albay

NEWS / A2
UST execs appeal CA decision on nursing passers at SC, seek TRO

PHILIPPINE DAILY
INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS
Saturday, November 4, 2006 ★★ 7 sections / Vol. 21 / No. 329 P18

London's Big Ben has company: Big Brother

LONDON—BRITAIN'S PRIVACY watchdog sounded the alarm over growing state and commercial intrusion into people's lives as a report on Thursday ranked the country alongside Russia and China as "endemic."

LONDON'S A2

Bush hits campaign trail for embattled Republicans

WASHINGTON—PRESIDENT GEORGE W. BUSH, determined to keep his party's majority in Congress, set out to campaign for embattled Republican candidates as the party struggled to rein in the issues in next Tuesday's elections.

Democrats expressed growing optimism that their long season out of power might soon end. Sen. Chuck Schumer, chair of the Democratic

BUSH A3

'More funds now for RP'

NBI: No breach of airport security

By Margaux C. Ortiz

THE NATIONAL BUREAU OF Investigation yesterday said it had terminated its probe into a reported airport security breach last August and found no basis to support a story by journalist Arlyn dela Cruz that security consultant Sam Macatiola had brought bomb components on board a domestic airliner to test security facilities and preparedness.

Dela Cruz told the Inquirer she was not surprised by the NBI report and that what was important to her was that the media industry knew the truth about what really happened.

The Inquirer carried Dela Cruz's story on Sept. 1.

That story was based on Dela Cruz's interview with Macatiola, who was not named in the report—as he requested—and was identified only as a "civilian aviation security expert."

After the story appeared and he was named by aviation officials, Macatiola denied the story.

Dela Cruz stood by her account.

In her published story, Dela Cruz said the antiterrorism ex-

NBI A8

IMPASSABLE mountain road choked by fallen trees caused by flashfloods and landslides leads to Kasibu and Quezon towns in Nueva Ecija where about 700 families have been isolated since "Paeng" struck last Tuesday. The difficulty in relief efforts has been aggravated by the slow response of some government agencies of the province's disaster management council.

CONTINGENCY A-NEWS

'Paeng's' isolated villagers cry for help

By Melvin Gascon
Inquirer Northern Luzon

QUEZON, NUEVA VIZcaya—About 700 families in villages isolated by Supertyphoon "Paeng" are calling for help in the face of shortages in food, drinking water and shelter.

Provincial disaster management officials yesterday expressed concern over lack of access to the ravaged villages, especially Barangay Buenavista, in the upland towns of Quezon and Kasibu towns, making it difficult for relief agencies to bring in supplies.

Paeng left at least 13 people dead, scores injured and more than P480 million worth of damage to agriculture and infrastructure in a powerful sweep across northern Luzon starting last Sunday.

"One of our main concerns is [the villagers' lack of] access to

PAENG'S A8

More money for health, education, jobs, roads

By Doris C. Dumlao, Michelle V. Basno and Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

FOR THE FIRST TIME in a generation, the Philippines will have surplus money to build schools and infrastructure, expand public health services, and create more jobs, President Macapagal-Arroyo said last night.

Returning from a weeklong visit to China, Mr Arroyo was buoyed by the outlook upgrade on the Philippines by Moody's Investors Service, saying this would provide "direct benefits" to Filipinos—a view shared by officials and independent economists, who saw the upgrade as a sign of better things to come for the country.

"For the first time in a generation, we now have the money for long overdue investments in our people and our nation," Mr Arroyo said in her arrival statement.

"We have the first fruits of our reform—surplus money, not debt—to invest in infrastructure, education and healthcare and attract new investments to create good, high-paying jobs in the Philippines," she said.

Economist and former finance undersecretary Raineo Bernardo said the improved credit outlook "lowers the borrowing cost for the government, which would thus free up more money for social and infrastructure spending."

Moody's, widely seen as the most pessimistic of the international credit-rating agencies, on Thursday removed its negative outlook on the Philippines nine months after rivals Standard and Poor's and Fitch Ratings made similar upgrades. It cited the country's progress in reducing fiscal deficits and dependence on external financing for the upgrade.

According to forecasts, the improved assessment from Moody's

MORE A6

Miriam likes ring of RP '1st woman chief justice'

By Juliet Labog-Javellana

THE WOMAN WHO ONCE SAID she ate death threats for breakfast likes the ring of "first woman chief justice" of the Philippines.

In a phone interview yesterday with the Inquirer, Sen. Miriam Defensor-Santiago said she would "definitely" make history in this country if she climbed that title, "and I would also be the first member [to make it to the post] if I am chosen."

She confessed to being torn between other "career options," but said she had consented to being nominated to the post that would be vacated with the retirement of Chief Justice Artemio Panganiban on his 70th birthday on Dec. 7.

The 61-year-old Santiago, a staunch ally of President Macapagal-Arroyo, said she would gladly submit to a public interview of the candidates which Senate Majority Leader Francis Pangilinan wants the Judicial and Bar Council to hold.

Pangilinan is an ex-officio member of and the Senate's representative in the JBC, which screens nominations to the judiciary.

"I consider it an honor just to be nominated," Santiago said.

MIRIAM A6

WORLD POOL CHAMPIONSHIP Reigning World Pool Champion (WPC) Wu Chu-ching (center) of Taipei keeps a tight grip on his trophy as the pressure is on Efren "Bata" Reyes (2nd from left) to win it for RP. The WPCship starts today at the PICC. Others in photo are, from left: Alex Pagulayan, Thorsten Hohman, Francisco Bustamante, Mika Immonen and Rodney Morris. (Stories in Sports, Page A22.)

Filipina in US finds birth mother in Spain through the Internet

JELLA: A lifetime of searching ends in a week. CONTINUATION

By Carla P. Gomez
Inquirer Visayas

BACOLOD CITY—THE INTERNET HAS NOT only shrunk the world, it has made searching for one's biological mother possible in less than a week.

Jella Nagumbing, a 28-year-old Filipina Web designer and singer now based in California, searched worldwide via the Internet for her birth mother. The only information she had to go by was that her mother was from Bacolod City; her nickname was "Gingging" and that she worked in Spain.

Nagumbing was also told that her father was Spanish.

The search began in the United States,

FILIPINA A2

He teaches 84,000 ways to enlightenment

By Blanche S. Rivera

BELIEVERS SAY ENLIGHTENMENT IS on its way to the Philippines. Expected time of arrival: Nov. 11.

That's Black Hat Lama—"a Buddhist teacher incarnate older than the Dalai Lama"—will visit Manila for a series of prayers for "unity in diversity, peace and harmony for prosperity" in the country.

It will be the first visit to the Philippines of His Holiness Karmapa Trinley Thaye Dorje, believed to be the 17th reincarnation of the Tibetan Karmapa since the 12th century.

Thaye Dorje, now 23, will share Buddhist teachings with the public.

Believers are optimistic that the historic visit will enlighten Filipinos on compassion, healing of the sick, and removal of resentment and other "poisons in the system," which, they claim, will end Filipinos' sufferings.

The Karmapa Lama is the venerated head of the Karma Kagyu, one of the four main schools of Tibetan Buddhism and known as the oral or perfection school. It is focused on the yogic transmission of the dharma (or Buddhist teachings).

Known as the holders of the Black Crown or the Black Hat, Karmapa Lamas are from the most ancient lineage of Tibetan Buddhism's religious figures, two centuries ahead of the Dalai Lama lineage.

"We hope that [with] this visit, and all our other dharma activities, we will see the light at the end of the tunnel in the midst of economic and political uncertainties," Penor Rinpoche Lama, chair of the Philippine Nyida Kagyu Buddha Dharma

HE TEACHES A4

TIBET'S BLACK HAT LAMA arrives here on Nov. 11 for his first historic visit.

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 4, 2006

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Northern Luzon, Southern Visayas and Mindanao will experience mostly cloudy skies with scattered thunderstorms and thundershowers. The rest of Luzon will be partly cloudy to at times mostly with isolated thunderstorms and thundershowers.

Source: PAGASA

Second FRONTPAGE

New squabble erupts among Cabinet men

Collusion of regulators, regulated bared

By Abigail L. Ho

NERC Regulatory capture

ALBANO: No evidence

BARELY A WEEK SINCE Malacañang negotiated a 'ceasefire' among its Cabinet members over the defeated people's initiative to amend the Constitution, a new squabble has erupted among two of its economic managers.

Energy Regulatory Commission (ERC) chair Rodolfo Albano Jr. yesterday slammed Economic Planning Secretary Romulo Neri for insinuating that the ERC was a "captive" of the private interests it was supposed to regulate, and was one of the reasons why the cost of doing business in the country remained high.

In a statement issued yesterday in response to Neri's controversial speech before the 22nd Philippine Business Conference late last month, Albano said such statements could cause people to lose trust in the regulatory body and possibly stem the entire government reform agenda.

Albano contended that Neri's had no concrete evidence to back his claims and that his allegations were all just based on hearsay.

"There are no facts and evidence supporting his claims. Casual statements like these may cause mistrust by the people of the ERC. It could lead to eventual loss of confidence in the reform agenda contained in the Electric Power Industry Reform Act (Epira)," Albano said.

He insisted that the ERC had not been remiss in its duties of helping implement the provisions of the Epira, including its mandate to protect consumer interests by ensuring the reliable supply of electricity at reasonable rates.

Neri, in his speech before businessmen, had cited the ERC as one of the government agencies—together with the Civil Aeronautics Board, Tariff Commission, Securities and Exchange Commission, Maritime Industry Authority and Philippine Ports Authority—that was prone to "regulatory capture."

This, he said, means that the ERC and the four other government regulatory bodies had a strong tendency to let the entities that they regulate influence their decisions.

Neri said this allowed players in the power, transport and telecom sectors to keep their rates high enough to generate windfall profits, which, in turn, keep the cost of doing business in the country high.

He said that of the total business cost, power accounted for 18.25 percent, logistics 25.38 percent, and electricity 56 percent.

The high cost of doing business here, he said, discouraged potential investors from locating here, and relieving investors from infusing fresh capital.

Neri, however, responded Center of Aquinas brought to a proper optics to ignore the leakage, issue a license to every examiners whether a cheat or not, and issue as future investigations the elimination of the wolf that got into the sheep's fold," they said.

"They also questioned the PRC's recomputation of grades, and said the CS nullified the recomputation for the wrong reasons—that there was no proof the leakage was widespread.

According to petitioners, the reason for the nullification should have been that the leakage was "uncontrolled."

ILLEGAL IMPORTATION Bureau of Customs Commissioner Napoleon Morales files with the Department of Justice a criminal complaint against Daniel Patrio, Ricardo Rodrigo Bello, Alexander Garcia, Antonio Habana Jr., Richard Harper, and Christopher Arriola, officers of Seaworld Inc. for the illegal importation of a cogboat approximately valued at over P7 million.

UST-led nursing groups appeal to Supreme Court

By Leila B. Salaverria

THE ROW OVER THE NURSING exam leak isn't over yet.

Yesterday, several groups led by University of Sto. Tomas professor Rose Liza Dalle asked the Supreme Court to set aside the Court of Appeals order that paved the way for the Professional Regulation Commission (PRC) to release the results of the May 2006 nursing board examinations.

The two votes were the same as those by the holdings.

They also asked the high tribunal to order the government to hold a retake of Tests III and V for those who took the 2006 Nursing Licensure Examination in June.

The two tests were the ones affected by the leakage.

Moreover, the other ousted bar exams of the two tests should have their marks and licenses nullified, they added.

"Unless a temporary restraining order and a writ of preliminary injunction are issued in this case, the interest of public health and safety as well as the prospects of finally trained nurses of getting overseas work to help their families and country will suffer irreparable damage," the petitioners said.

On Oct. 13, the CA ruled that the earth-taking of the nurses could push through but nullified the decision of the Professional Regulation Commission to invalidate the 20 leaked questions in Test III and reinstate the results of Test V because 90 of its 100 questions were leaked.

The court also ordered the retake of Tests III and V for 1,687 graduates who were added to the list of passers following the recomputations, and the retaking of the tests for the 1,138 graduates whose names were removed because of the recomputation.

But the earth-taking did not push through immediately despite the CA order after Labor Secretary Arturo Brion stopped PRC from swearing in the nurses, saying the petitioners might still appeal the decision.

The earth-taking finally took place on Oct. 23 after a conciliation summit in the CA presided over by Justice Bienvenido Reyes failed to persuade the petitioners to withdraw their petition.

According to the petitioners, the appellate court's decision legalized the leakage and subsequently paved the way for public health and safety—not those who obtained their results through cheating.

Also, however, respondent Court of Appeals brought to a proper optics to ignore the leakage, issue a license to every examiners whether a cheat or not, and issue as future investigations the elimination of the wolf that got into the sheep's fold," they said.

They also questioned the PRC's recomputation of grades, and said the CA nullified the recomputation for the wrong reasons—that there was no proof the leakage was widespread.

According to petitioners, the reason for the nullification should have been that the leakage was "uncontrolled."

Four top PNP posts reshuffled

FOUR MORE SENIOR POLICE OFficers will get new plum positions at Camp Crame, headquarters of the Philippine National Police (PNP), as part of a reorganization of the major police units due to the retirement of some officers.

PNP Chief Dir. Gen. Oscar Calderon announced yesterday the new designations of the four officers:

- Chief Supt. Augusto Angeles as the new acting director of the Civil Security Group (CSG). He was previously chief of the PNP's Crime Laboratory.
- Chief Supt. Avelo Cardoz is taking over Angeles's position.
- Sr. Supt. Florante Carreon is taking over Cardoz's post at the PNP's Firearms and Explosives Division. He was previously assistant operations superintendent of the PNP Training Service.
- Sr. Supt. Arturo Petate is moving up in chief of the PNP's Human Service with the retirement a few days ago of Chief Supt. Jose Gutierrez. Petate was Gutierrez' deputy at the Human Service.

Calderon said the new designations will take effect on Monday, except for Petate who already took over his new office.

Lou Gerbert, other senior officers were reshuffled at the regional level.

Chief Supt. Edgardo Doronila was designated as the new deputy chief for Investigation and Detective Management, replacing Dir. Marcelo Ibo who retired.

Chief Supt. Ricardo Sindayen, Jr. took over as regional chief for the Cordilleras (Cordi, Laguna, Batangas, Real and Quezon) area. Chief Supt. Leopoldo N. Bataoil was assigned regional commander of Region 1.

Alexis Pinpin

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AFTER LULI INCIDENT

Airport personnel now more polite

FOLLOWING THE FIASCO that involved their colleague Edgardo Padlan, the immigration officer who reportedly detained in the daughter of President Macapagal-Arroyo, airport personnel are now more polite when dealing with passengers at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport (NAIA), a source told the InterAksyon.

"They're now very careful... Ayaw nila maging sanhi ng kahit na anong gulo sa kanilang trabaho (They don't want to be mistaken as rude or arrogant)" the source, who says, daily deals with NAIA immigration officers, told the InterAksyon.

On the flip side, the source said immigration officers have noticed that some passengers are now more outspoken, after the story broke about Padlan's run-in with Evangeline Jennifer "Jill" Arroyo. The President's only daughter told media—and her mother—that the immigration officer was rude and allowed a foreigner to cut ahead in line.

Jill was reportedly carrying a regular green passport issued to ex-hotel Filipino citizens, which now probably why the immigration officer did not recognize her as the special, HP fire.

Nikko Dizon

Pinoys in Baltic mishap get help

By Jerome Aning

LABOR SECRETARY AR-turo Brion yesterday assured the Filipino seamstress possible" to the family of a Filipino seafarer who died, as well those of nine other seamen who perished after sinking of a Swedish cargo ship in the Baltic Sea early this week.

Brion directed the Philippine Overseas Labor Offices nearest the Scandinavian region in Europe, particularly in Brussels and London, to coordinate the repatriation of the nine survivors, as well as the remains of the late fatality, identified as Danilo Perez, 52.

The Secretary also directed the Philippine Overseas Employment Administration to coordinate with the Swedish shipowner, Lindvalls Shipping, and the local manning agency, identified as Inocencio Manufacturing Services, which have secured the Filipino seamen of assistance.

The Hardwick, a roll on-roll off Swedish cargo ship with a crew of 18 Filipinos and four Swedes, capsized and sank in the territory of Ghotti and Gotland islands in the eastern Baltic Sea after leaving Helsinki, Finland for Copenhagen on Wednesday (European time).

Despite strong winds and heavy rains, a search and rescue operation involving Swedish marine helicopters managed to rescue 13 crewmen, including all the Filipinos. The 14th crewman was still reported missing.

Those rescued were later brought to a hospital in Linkoeping for medical treatment.

However, Perez, the last of the 13 Filipino seamen to be rescued, did not survive, as he reportedly succumbed to hypothermia a few hours before the Overseas Workers Welfare Administration.

Esperon: No deal with Oakwood mutineers

By Dona Pazlogue

NO DEAL.

Armed Forces Chief of Staff Gen. Hermogenes Esperon Jr. has ruled out any plea bargain with the 97 junior officers facing court martial for the 2003 Oakwood mutiny.

He said the military would not negotiate a compromise with the rebel officers—at least not until other military issues take on their course.

"[But] I will probably have to come after their sentences," Esperon said.

He also raised out the possibility of allowing them to return to the military service.

"That can't be. You rebel against the government, then afterwards you will resign and get your benefits... I don't think so," he said.

The trial of the so-called "Magdalo" rebels officers has not progressed beyond arraignment after three and a half years. The officers had taken over the Oakwood Premier hotel in the heart of the financial district of Makati and called for the resignation of the President and the military brass but surrendered after a 21-hour standoff.

Out of the 97 officers on trial for mutiny and other charges, 59 formally pre-bargained a plea bargain last April.

The official response came only last Oct. 17. Military prosecutors announced during a court hearing that "higher authorities" rejected their offer as "unacceptable." The prosecutors said no explanation was given to them.

Shortly after he assumed the top military post last July 21, Esperon vowed he would bar his former subordinates in the military.

As the AFP Chief of Staff, Esperon has the authority to approve, reject or revise the verdict to be handed down by a general court martial.

He is not due to retire until February 2008.

In May 2005, 184 enlisted personnel who participated in the short-lived mutiny struck a plea bargain with military prosecutors. They pleaded "guilty" to a lesser offense and in return were demoted by three ranks and made to suffer a major pay cut for half a year.

Last week, nine Army soldiers implicated in the mutiny were cleared and freed after three and a half years in detention in Fort Bonifacio military camp. Two other Army enlisted personnel were allowed to be cleared of their court martial plea bargain offered earlier to the 184 soldiers.

NEWSBRIEFS

Erap docu back at MTRCB

MALACAÑANG has thrown back to the Movie and Television Review and Classification Board (MTRCB) the decision whether to allow the public showing of a film documentary on jailed President Joseph Estrada. In an order issued by a spokesman who turned out to be Presidential Spokesperson Ignacio Bunye, the "X" rating on "Ang Totoong Pakay Ko Sa Pilipinas," the MTRCB has been mandated "to conduct further consultations with as many board members as possible to get their consensus on the matter" within the next 10 days. The recommendation was sent by Cecilia Gutierrez-Alvarez. **Cecil Cabanatan, Jr.**

Ping laughs off intrigue

[illegible] Sen. Panfilo Lacson yesterday laughed off rumors that his aide, former police Chief Supt. Francisco Tobias, had relayed threats to Charito "Mining" Ang, the gambling kingpin whom President Joseph Estrada refuses to be extradited from the United States in the next few days. Lacson accused Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez of making up the story to raise political intrigue and hype up the return of Ang, a co-accused of Estrada in a plunder case. "Obviously through Sec. Gonzalez's penchant to take some lessons from Mike Defensor or Ronnie Puno, the technique is an elementary and rudimentary," he said. Lacson said that Cebu, from his deputy chief of staff, denied it hours after the press conference and had no reason to contact him. **TJ Burgonio**

Returning Pinoy workers

THE DEPARTMENT of Foreign Affairs (DFA) yesterday said that [illegible] Filipino workers have opted to leave Congo, Kazakhstan in the wake of latest riots and return to the Philippines. Of the 220, 71 have already left and flew 2 to Skyna. The reserve city in Foreign where flight arrangements will be made for their return to Manila, the DFA said. Those returning were identified as Jimmy Fajardo, Adriano Yacobilla, Laura Bellenzuela, Marcelo Ramos, Alberto Ramos, Edwin Duarte, J. Laurel Tavares, Julieto Egna, Donal Lambino, Guillermo Villacorta, and Bonito Sorial. There were 107 Filipino workers employed at site of Atlantic Tengiz whereas the hundred between Kazakh and Filipino workers were working [illegible] approximately 69 kilometers west. **Mike Eleno**

"Bitoy" ends journey at 69

THE FUNERAL of Mr. Rafael "Bitoy" Rosales Ysip, noted cartoonist in Manila yesterday morning, lie in state at the National Shrine of the Divine Child at the La Salle Green Hills in Mandaluyong City. Rosales was the cartoonist of La La Salle Araneta University. A Mass of the Resurrection will be celebrated on Wednesday, Nov. 8, at 9 a.m. at the National Shrine of the Divine Child. His remains will after be brought to Laoag City, Ilokandia to be interred at the De La Salle Brothers' Memorial Grounds. La Salle Novitiate. "Bitoy" reportedly drowned in the waters off Hamilton Bay, Bayfront Bay fronting the South China Sea in Morong, Bataan at around 9:30 p.m. Thursday while on vacation with members of the La Salle Brothers Community. The body of Rosales was retrieved by rescuers in a boat, a Mercedes away where he was last seen. **Jun Ildefonso**

Ricaborda, 74

AGUILAR, [illegible] Ricaborda, 74, of Barangay Poblacion, Aguilar, the father of Bataan's library assistant Elmo Caparoso, died last Thursday of a heart attack. He was 74. He is survived by his children Lilian and Noel, Bobby and Marylene, 11 grandchildren and Kenneth, grandchildren, seven [illegible] Linda and brother Reynaldo. His body lies in state at the Mabini Body Shop, Parish Mortuary on Sabinidad Street, Poblacion, Aguilar. Interment will be on Nov. 8 at Forest Park in Bagumbayan, Cabanatuan City.

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Filipina in US finds birth mother in Spain …

Front page ▶ A1

reached the Philippines, their friend and finally Spain, where Nagsimbing's birth mother—who has never married and works as a teacher—resides.

On Tuesday, mother and daughter spoke on the phone and were already planning a reunion. All this was accomplished in less than a week, thanks to the Internet.

It started on Oct. 27 when Nagsimbing sent an e-mail to the online edition of the Visayan Daily Star, a Bacolod newspaper, asking for help to locate her birth mother.

In her e-mail, which was published in the paper's print and online edition, Nagsimbing said she was born on June 13, 1977, adopted in Bacolod City but grew up in Luzon. In 2002, she moved to the United States to further her career. Later, she married a Filipino.

She said she hoped to find her mother who gave her up to be adopted by a childless couple who owned a drugstore near the Corazon Locsin Montelibano Memorial Regional Hospital (CLMMRH) in Bacolod City in 1977.

Hello, it's mare

As it turned out, Nagsimbing's birth mother is Lagrimas Perrito, who became pregnant while working as a domestic helper in Spain. She went home to Bacolod to give birth but since her mother was already taking care of two children from a previous relationship, Perrito decided to put up her third child for adoption. Then she returned to Spain.

On Tuesday, Perrito, who is originally from Barangay Central Hawaian in Silay City, Negros Occidental, called Nagsimbing in Los Angeles, California.

"Hi, Bella (it)! This (she) my (me) day (la Bella Bella)! I am (ako) (ang) (si)" were the first words Nagsimbing heard from her 53-year-old birth mother.

Then mother and daughter both started to cry.

Perrito, who works as a teacher in Spain, told Nagsimbing that her birth father was Alfonso Catacutan, a Spanish photographer who died three years earlier.

She said Nagsimbing has two half-brothers (from no earlier relationship), Stephen, who lives in London, and Kenneth, who was killed in Pasuquin, Ilocos.

Family found

"My birth mom said we have a house in Spain. My brother is in London and he wants to see me. All my aunts from her side of the family are in Spain. My father's Spanish relatives also want to see me because he never had a child and (they) never had a daughter," Nagsimbing told this reporter in an e-mail on Wednesday.

"She told me that she wants to make up for lost time and invited me to live with her in Spain," she said.

However, Nagsimbing said she was happy with her life in the United States. She is married with one son, and is now first-time expectant. She said her mother planned to visit her soon in the United States.

Pieces of a puzzle

Nagsimbing said she did not care about the past. She simply wanted to know who her biological parents are and what they look like. She also wanted to know her biological parents' medical history which would be helpful in her and her children in the future.

When Bernard Tanio of Bacolod City read Nagsimbing's letter looking for her birth mother, he sensed the Visayan Daily Star is forming them about a woman named "Ging."

In his D.C. 29 letter, Tanio said his real thing, who was then pregnant, were boardmates in a house owned by the Jalandoon family located at the corner of Malvar and San Sebastian Streets in Bacolod.

Tanio said he would not recall the surname of Ging, but said she had two older children she left with her mother in Central Hawaiian in Silay City. Ging told him that she did not want to go home because she was pregnant with another man's child. He added that Ging gave up her child for adoption in the manner of Roman's Ung Iruan.

The paper was a follow-up story based on Tanio's letter which was read by Delia dela Cruz Adonquidez and other relatives in Dela Cruz, had leaked in Ireland.

On Tuesday they called the Visayan Daily Star and spoke with this reporter.

"My hair stood on end when my sister showed me the print out of your story regarding the daughter searching for her mom," Adonquidez said.

Confirmed

Adonquidez said she used to live a resident of Central Hawaiian and in the best friend of Ging's sister, Lilian. She said that she immediately called up Spain and told the two Perrito sisters about Nagsimbing's search.

She told this reporter that Lilian confirmed that Nagsimbing was the child her sister had given up for adoption.

Nagsimbing's adoptive mother had died when she was 28, but her adoptive father still lives in Luzon.

Adonquidez said that Perrito and her four sisters live in Spain.

Contact numbers were soon exchanged and on Tuesday, Perrito and Nagsimbing were talking to each other by phone.

Both Adonquidez and Tanio, who have seen photographs of Nagsimbing on the Internet, said she has her mother's eyes.

Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT
National Capital Region
[illegible]

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BAYVIEW TECHNOLOGIES, INC. | Pei Li | Marketing Manager
GEORGE TECHNO PHILIPPINES INC. | Kitsun Amma | Manager
THREE ARK, INC. | Yiyangmin Jiang | Korean Client Support
THREE ARK, INC. | Young Il Choi | Korean Client Support
ZEE PLASTIC MFG. CORP. | Shahaz Lal | Manager
ELLIOT PRESS TRADING CORPORATION | Sang Yeon Kim | Supervisor

If you have any information/objection to the aforementioned application/s please communicate with the Regional Director.

[illegible]
Regional Director

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION
[illegible]

SEC MEMORANDUM CIRCULAR No. 11
Series of 2006

Subject: INCREASE IN THE PROCESSING FEE ON APPLICATIONS FOR CERTIFICATE OF ELIGIBILITY PURSUANT TO THE SPECIAL PURPOSE VEHICLE ACT

To: ALL CONCERNED

The Commission, in its meeting of October 12, 2006, decided to increase the processing fee on applications for Certificate of Eligibility (COE) covering non-performing assets (NPAs) in accordance with Republic Act No. 9182 otherwise known as the Special Purpose Vehicle Act as amended by R.A. No. 9447, as follows:

	Old Rate	New Rate
For transfers to be made to an SPV by financial institutions under SEC jurisdiction	1/100 of 1% of the transfer price but not to exceed P100,000.00	0.05% of the transfer price but not to exceed P25,000.00
For secured (eg transfers/ dividends) third party	1/100 of 1% of the transfer price but not to exceed P100,000.00	0.10% of the transfer price but not to exceed P75,000.00

The subject increase rationalizes the amount of processing fee with the necessary technical skills and time required for the evaluation of an application.

This Circular shall take effect immediately.

Issued this 12th day of October 2006, Mandaluyong City.

(Sgd.) FE B. BARIN
Chairperson

PHILIPPINE NATIONAL OIL COMPANY
[illegible]

PHYSICAL RESOURCES DISPOSAL COMMITTEE

INVITATION TO BID

[illegible]

QUANTITY	DESCRIPTION	MIN. BID
A. One (1) Lot	Unserviceable/Obsolete computer equipment Estimated a.k.a 600.00 kilos 300 - CPU 150 - Monitors 150 - Printers 150 - Keyboards	P12,500/k or P15,000.00
B. One (1) Lot	Unserviceable/Obsolete office Equipment shredder machines, desk organizer, executive type Round stainless sinking fountain, [illegible]	36,000.00
C. One (1) Lot	100 Office Tables (OT)	50,000.00

[illegible]

Sealed bids shall be accompanied by a cashier's/ manager's check or a certified check issued by a commercial bank payable to PNOC-EDC in the amount of not less than 10% of the total amount of the bid. Manager's check or certified check shall be accepted in cash.

[illegible]

(Sgd.) ARNALDO E. DUARAY
Senior Vice President
Administration Group

He teaches 84,000 ways to enlightenment

Front page ▶ A1

Foundation, said in a statement.

With Buddhism's 84,000 ways to enlightenment, the foundation believes that the Philippines' politicians and its poor would find at least one way suited to their own capacities and temperaments.

Karmic effect

Thaye Dorje's lectures will center on Avalokiteshvara Dyke, which involves the practice of compassion in each progressive step and meaning, the White Umbrella Deity which removes [illegible], and the Medicine Buddha, which heals the sick.

"Our own problems are caused by greed, ambition, anger, jealousy, pride, stupidity and abuse of other beings. These are the poisons in our system which we must remove," foundation member Ilusan Ong told the Inquirer yesterday in a phone interview.

Ong said the country's problems of hunger and poverty or "lack," as she called it) were caused by such poisons and were the karmic effect of Filipinos' past sins.

When consciousness is uplifted, our leaders will perform their duties better," Ong said.

The poor, on the other hand, should not mistake prosperity as having money, but rather, "having what you need alone and where you need it," she said.

Lecture open to public

Thaye Dorje is one of two figures recognized by differing Karma Kagyu practitioners as the 17th reincarnations of the Karmapa (beginning with Dusum Khyenpa in 1110. The other one is the 23 year-old Ogyen Trinley Dorje, who escaped Tibet to study in India.

KARMAPA Trinley Thaye Dorje, a Buddhist teacher, a reincarnation of the Djalwa Karmapa who is the 17th century, older than the Dalai Lama

je, who escaped Tibet to study in India.

The 16th Karmapa, Rangjung Rigpe Dorje, who was buried for aggressively spreading Buddhism teachings outside Tibet, visited the Philippines twice before he died in November 1981 in the United States.

Ong said the foundation had opened admissions to the public to encourage grassroots participation in the lectures, and to show Filipinos that Buddhism could be practiced even by Catholics, Protestants, Muslims and devotees of any other religion.

The foundation has invited Ilocandia Marapagsi-ayoye, Manila Mayor Lito Atienza and Vice Mayor Danny Lacuna, to a series of lectures at the Philippine International Convention Center on Nov. 12 and 13, and the Universal Wisdom Foundation Center in Sen. Gil Puyat Ave. in Makati on Nov. 16.

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Saturday, November 4, 2006
30th Week in Ordinary Time
Charles Borromeo

1st Reading: Phil 2:1-11
Gospel: Luke 14:1, 7-11

One Sabbath Jesus had gone to eat a meal in the house of a leading Pharisee, and he was carefully watched.

Jesus then told a parable to the guests, for he had noticed how they opted to take the places of honor. And he said, "When you are invited by a wedding party, do not choose the best seat. It may happen that someone more important than you has been invited, and may host, who invited both of you, will come and say to you: 'Make give this person your place.' Then in disgrace you will have to take the lowest place!

Whenever you are invited, go rather to the lowest seat, so that your host may come and say to you: 'Friend, you must come up higher.' And this will be a great honor for you in the presence of all the other guests. For whoever makes himself out to be great will be humbled, and whoever humbles himself will be exalted."

Commentary

Real is struggling until whether it is better to live or to die since he himself is placing his own reality all too clearly himself. His dilemma is solved by relying on the necessity of preaching Christ as living, and being strong by living, even though it is dying to be with Christ.

And Jesus struggles with those he is at dinner who are surprised to what he does on the Sabbath. He tells a parable of guests invited to a dinner and their seats or table. What can do we take when we come in, and why do we choose our seats? Are we humbly aware of our relationship with God, or do we need to see ourselves as we actually are—and what there are many who would be seated next to the host? What about us closer to God is compassion, not religious devotion or legalism.

(Lacuna Publications Inc., 4 Magsaysay St., UP Village, Diliman, Quezon City, UP PO Box 8, Diliman, 1101 Quezon City, Tel. 921-3084, Fax 921-7429, E-mail: ucp@ucpi.org, Website: http://www.bible.ucpi.org (Christian Publications Inc.) at http://missionsinfo.christ.org (Christians in the Philippines)

EYE-CATCHER
Miss Earth candidate Amanda Pennekamp of the USA poses for photographers upon arrival at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport. AQUINO/PDI

Senate sets hearing on RP-Japan trade pact

By TJ Burgonio and Juliet Labog-Javellana

SEN. MIRIAM DEFENSOR-SANTIAGO YESterday welcomed President Macapagal-Arroyo's announcement that a controversial trade agreement with Japan would be sent to the Senate for ratification.

"That's excellent. It indicates the open mind of the administration," said Santiago, who chairs the foreign relations committee.

Santiago, a staunch presidential ally, urged the President to review the Japan-Philippines Economic Partnership Agreement and forward it to the Senate as the Supreme Court (SC) Matocaling decided to declare it an executive agreement that would not need Senate ratification.

The President announced in Hong Kong last Thursday that the agreement would "definitely" be sent to the Senate for ratification.

The Senate trade committee has set its first hearing on the JPEPA for Tuesday, a day after Congress resumes sessions, and has invited a panel of experts and resource persons to the inquiry.

"The controversy surrounding this agreement compels the Senate to look into how our government negotiated this agreement," said committee chair Sen. Manuel Roxas II.

Santiago said her committee would also hold hearings on the agreement.

The JPEPA, which took years to negotiate, was signed by the President and former Japanese Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi on the sidelines of the Asia-Europe Meeting in Finland on Sept. 9.

It has been billed as a comprehensive economic partnership agreement covering, besides tariffs, intellectual property, competition policy, improvement of the business environment and bilateral cooperation in fields like human resources development, information and communications technology as well as small and medium enterprises.

The agreement ran into controversy when environmentalists warned the administration's proposal provision proposing zero tariff on toxic wastes, which they said would give Japan the leeway to export its wastes to the Philippines.

Roxas said the inquiry of his committee would focus on the trade implications and economic impact of the JPEPA, including its effects on local industries and on the Philippine negotiating position in the World Trade Organization.

However, because of the controversy, the inquiry would also look into how the government negotiated it, and "whether concessions to be made by the Philippines would not unduly put it at a disadvantage," Roxas said.

Santiago said the issues surrounding the JPEPA should be tackled in the committee hearings to avoid lengthy debates in the plenary when the JPEPA is put to a vote.

She said she would vote for ratification if Foreign Secretary Alberto Romulo can provide documentation that Japan did not dump its hazardous and toxic wastes in the countries with which it has existing agreements similar to JPEPA.

"JPEPA is not the first for Japan as I want Secretary Romulo to explain to the committee what happened after such Southeast Asian country signed their version of JPEPA," Santiago said in a phone interview.

She said she wanted to know whether Japan invoked the all-trade requirement of the WTO, which recommendation dates would give Japan the freedom to export its toxic wastes.

If Japan did not invoke this requirement under the WTO, "we can give full faith and confidence on this agreement with Japan," the senator said.

"If empirical experience would show that Japan has never invoked and will never invoke it, it gives me more confidence in defending the JPEPA in the plenary," Santiago said.

But the senator said there was no need for the Philippine government to ask Japan to put its commitment not to export toxic wastes in black and white.

"That would be a breach of protocol. If despite their formal announcement we would ask Japan to put in down in writing, that would be very offensive. We just have to exercise due diligence," she said.

Sandigan grants Erap 9-hour pass

THE SANDIGANBAYAN YESTERDAY GRANTED detained President Joseph Estrada a nine-hour pass to visit his ailing 102-year old mother instead of the three-day leave requested by Estrada through his lawyer Jose Flaminiano.

In a resolution, the anti-graft court's special division ordering him for plunder allowed Estrada to visit his mother, Mary Ejercito, from 8 a.m. until 5 p.m. on Monday at which time he should already leave and return to his estate in Tanay, Rizal where he is under detention.

The special division, division Sandiganbayan chief Associate Justice Efren dela Cruz and Associate Justice Teresita Diy-Liao, denied the PNP custodial forces headed by Sr. Supt. Romeo Olivares to make visit Estrada will be another else except for Ejercito's home on Kennedy Street in North Greenhills.

The special division said it took consideration the prosecution panel's comment that power should be limited to only a day. Norman Bordadora

Peso predicted to hit 46 to the dollar next year

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

LEADING FINANCIAL MARKET experts yesterday said they expect the peso to reach its highest level in a decade amid the stock market to touch its all-time high next year and that no amount of political instability can derail these key financial indicators from their month-bound courses.

"Gold is political instability at its finest apex, but hanging the upcoming senatorial elections next year," said market analyst Wilson Ily who manages the country's largest mutual fund, Philequity Fund.

The peso and stock market have remained robust over the past 12 months despite persistent demands for President Macapagal-Arroyo to resign, a failed coup plot and an aborted attempt to impeach the President.

Ily expects the peso to hit 46-to-the-dollar and the stock market to reverse its all-time high of 3,400 points by next year.

Albay Rep. Joey Salceda, an economic adviser to the President, says the peso jumping to the 44-to-the-dollar level, largely on external factors, where the local currency mostly shadows the improvement in other currencies in the region. The Singapore dollar has reached a nine-year high while the Thai baht is bolstering at a seven-year high.

"The President's lack has apparently not yet run out and with more reforms put in place, she will most likely surpass all her economic goals," said Salceda.

Jose Teodoro Jr., Philippine treasury chief of Hong Kong Shanghai Banking Corp., said there was a "strong chance" that the peso would hit the 44-to-45 level but only if the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas would tolerate it.

Abreo said he expects the BSP to manage the peso at between 47 and 48 next year.

Ily said most market investors were only looking at the final name of the government, gaming dollar earnings from BPOs (business processing outsourcing), and strong foreign worker remittances as the positive areas of its strength.

"What most overwhelmingly have yet to incorporate into the picture are the additional strong dollar earnings from natural export which will grow by leaps and bounds," said Ily, noting the Philippines' similarities with Latin American countries like Brazil and Chile that profited from the commodity boom in recent years.

He said most market analysts failed to realize the real climate of growth in GNP remittances.

"In the past, OFWs sent money to financial assistance to relatives. Now, OFW money has become more productive as their net worth is being used for investments. In fact, OFWs have become a major market for property companies," he said.

Ily expects the stock market to hit its historic peak of 3,400 points by next year. Ily said this target was within reach considering that PSEI—which catches the biggest weight among the basket of stocks charted in the main index—was hovering 85% or P2,500 per share; global equities markets were strengthening; and the soft landing of the US economy that should prompt the US Federal Reserve to cut interest rates for the first time since 2001.

"The Philippines is just catching up with other markets which have made new highs, surpassing the levels achieved prior to the 1997 financial crisis," said Ily.

'More funds now to directly benefit our people'

From page A1

would also reduce the country's risk premium from the perspective of foreign investors, who would then be encouraged to bring in more direct investments and create more domestic job opportunities.

The cost of borrowing will also be lower even for private enterprises, thus helping improve the investment climate, he said.

Mr. Arroyo, with her economic managers, welcomed Moody's assessment as a "major vote of confidence" in her economic reforms.

She said this was due to the "tough decisions" she had made, referring to unpopular new revenue measures, which had brought the fiscal deficit under control.

"I have made tough decisions which are now paying off for the Philippines. Moody's raises the fact that investment are up, our deficit is under control and our economy is on the way to fastness," Ms Arroyo said.

Finance Secretary Margarito Teves said Moody's change in its Philippine sovereign outlook to "stable" from "negative" would inspire the government to work harder to further improve its fiscal position.

"We are pleased Moody's has joined other international credit rating agencies in acknowledging the progress we have made in implementing unpopular but crucial and economic reforms," Teves said.

THE HUNGRY line up to get their daily share of lugaw distributed by concerned parishioners of Quiapo Church every lunch time. MYRA GUEVARA

Investor's confidence

"The outlook upgrade is a reaffirmation of the positive view of the financial markets and investors on the economy," said Amando Tetangco, the central bank governor, in a separate statement.

Teves said the government would continue to pursue its goal of balancing the budget by the end of 2008.

"We have seen how these efforts helped cement investor confidence, which will translate to more jobs and a better quality of life for our people," he said.

The government has managed to limit its budget deficit in the first nine months of 2006 to P93.4 billion, or just 46 percent of the programmed ceiling of P120 billion for the whole year.

Better things to come

Budget Secretary Rolando Andaya Jr. said the improvement in the Moody's outlook today that better things are to come in the form of a credit rating upgrade.

"If Moody's said that a stable outlook assessment would depend on the achievements by the government of its 2006 fiscal targets coupled with progress of further deficit reduction in 2007 and beyond, then the numbers show that we are heading towards that goal," he said.

According to his own projections, the deficit this year would settle at around P110 billion.

The outlook is expressions and an indication of the direction of the sovereign credit rating, which is the rating agency's assessment of the ability and willingness of a government to meet its debt obligations.

A negative outlook indicates risk of a rating downgrade in the next 12 to 24 months.

S&P and Fitch, which rates the Philippine sovereign at three and two notches below investment grade, respectively, removed their negative outlook earlier this year. Moody's, which gave the Philippines' lowest rating at four notches below investment grade, also revised its outlook to "stable."

The Philippines' current credit rating with S&P is three notches below investment grade, while with Fitch it is two notches below its investment grade status that investors are highly encouraged to do business in or lend to a country.

An improvement in the credit rating will therefore help lower the government's cost of borrowings. Owning up more resources for vital basic services, an improved rating will also encourage the entry of more investments.

Safe haven

Finance Undersecretary Gil Beltran said an improved ratings outlook would help more Philippine businesses to tap the world market.

"And more investors will come in because they perceive the economy to be a safe haven," Beltran said.

For the government, the improved ratings outlook would reduce costs of infrastructure projects and allow it to undertake more projects.

It will allow future projects because we can raise business at lower interest rates, which implies we could undertake more infrastructure projects and make the economy more competitive," Beltran said.

Infrastructure development is the Philippines to lagging behind regional tax growth and rapid urbanization, creating bottlenecks that harm the country's competitiveness and poverty-reduction efforts, the World Bank has said.

The World Bank estimates that the Philippines would need to gradually shore up infrastructure investments from less than 2 percent to at least 5 percent of gross domestic product, the savings spending level needed for fast-less-middle-income countries.

Fortune cookies

Lawyer Edmundo Sicaba, who specializes in intellectual property and corporation law said he has felt the impact of the country's declining risk premium in the form of more foreign investors seeking his help in the business here.

He said an increasing number of foreign investors, especially from mainland China, the United States and Europe, who were seeking legal services to be able to invest in the country.

"This improved business confidence will create various more legal job opportunities as Filipinos might not have to go abroad to seek employment," Sicaba said.

Sicaba, who is a co-owner of Lucky Fortune, a company that manufactures fortune cookies, said the improvement in business climate would also result in stronger sales and just.

But he said the improvement's drives was not solely due to the government. Rival turnaround. He cited other favorable factors like the benign global economy and the influx of remittances from overseas workers. With a report from Nikko Bilazo

Miriam likes ring of 'first woman chief justice'

From page A1

adding that she had signed her nomination by the Young Lawyers Association of the Philippines.

She will be canvassing the post sitting with five incumbent senior associate justices of the Supreme Court—Reynato Puno, Leonardo Quisumbing, Consuelo Ynares-Santiago, Angelina Sandoval-Gutierrez and Antonio Carpio—who, by virtue of their seniority, are automatically considered by the JBC.

It is the President who will make the final choice.

'We politics here'

Solicitor General Antonio Bautista Nachura said Santiago's statement to the President should not be taken lightly.

"Because Santiago is very qualified, and I'm sure that if she will be the next chief justice, she will be very fair and [special] council, confront will be disallowed," Nachura told reporters.

Nachura said the political considerations have. I don't think Senator Santiago's being an administration ally will be an issue. There are no politics here," he stressed.

According to Nachura, Santiago has met the requirements for the position. She is a natural-born in the Constitution, which states that the candidate should be part of the Philippine Bar association, a natural-born citizen, at least 40 years old, and engaged in law practice for at least 15 years.

He pointed out that before Santiago became a senator, she was a trial court judge and an immigration commissioner, and nominated a law office where she was out of the public eye.

"She has been practicing her profession for a substantial period," Nachura said.

Santiago is also a law professor at the University of the Philippines.

Pangilinan confirmed that Santiago's nomination beat the Oct. 31 deadline. She nominee must last year was made past the deadline, and she was not considered for the post that eventually went to Pangasinan.

SANTIAGO: Breaking tradition?

"We intend to complete the deliberations and have the list of nominees finalized and released at Malacanang by the first week of December," he said.

Breaking tradition

Santiago appeared undeterred by those cautioning that only males in the church be named chief justice, saying there was no law restricting the choice to the incumbent associate justices.

The notion of "insiders-only" is "very selfish" and promotes longevity over merit and talent, and the people are in favor of no consider chief justice, she said, adding.

"I have always broken traditions, anyway."

Santiago was the first female officer in chief of the Philippine Collegian, the campus publication of the State University, in 50 years.

She was also the first independent presidential candidate to lead the vote in the first five days of canvassing in the 1992 presidential election, although she lost to Fidel Ramos. She subsequently contested Ramos' victory before the Supreme Court, but the case was deemed moot and academic when she ran for the Senate in 1995.

At 43 in 1988, Santiago was the youngest Filipino to receive the Ramon Magsaysay Award for government service. She was then immigration commissioner.

"The challenge to me is whether I will make history," Santiago said.

She said she would be "making history as the first woman chief justice perhaps in the world but definitely in the Philippines."

Filipinos have served as chief justices in Australia, Canada and certain states of the United States.)

Other options

Santiago said the opportunity to deal with constitutional law was what was mainly drawing her to the top post in the judiciary.

"For the past many years, the chief justice has never been more part in constitutional law," she observed.

But Santiago conceded to the strong attraction of other career options—ranging as at the bosses where she shares two powerful constitutions and serving as some of the Tokyo-based United Nations University.

Her chief of staff, Camilla Sevilla, said the senator was also considering running for the University—a post that holds the rank of UN deputy secretary general and carries a considerable compensation package. It is considered a plum post because the rector serves as chief adviser to the UN secretary general, the UN general assembly and the chair of the UN National Security Council.

Sevilla said Santiago was interviewed by a five-member international panel last Wednesday. She said that only the actual eight candidates were asked to travel to Geneva for the job interview, the panel made an exception for Santiago and conducted a video teleconference with her at the FLOT office in Makati City.

According to Sevilla, the international panel, including the Japanese ambassador, applauded Santiago at the end of the interview.

One of the questions posed was: Why would Santiago, a "very famous celebrity in Asia, accept a position in a small agency," implying, Sevilla said, that the senator was overqualified for the post.

"I am equally interested in all three options," Santiago told the inquirer.

"The attraction to me of sitting in Philippine politics is that I would be able to help President Arroyo and help stabilize the political system, which is the highest priority today," she said.

Staying in character

If Santiago does get named chief justice, what can people expect her?

"I'll have to stay in character," said the tough-talking senator. "People expect me to be fiercely independent, and as my age, I cannot be expected to change."

Santiago said the President would not expect her "if she appointed me, I will have to vote according to my conscience."

The JBC is expected to come up with a short list of three nominees to be submitted to the Arroyo, Pangilinan said.

"My view is that the President is limited to choosing only from the list submitted by the JBC," he said.

Pangilinan also said he would insist that the JBC hold public interviews of the candidates, adding that he had proposed this amendment to the council's rules on his back in 2000.

"The JBC will have to vote on the nominees," he said. With a report from Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

London's Big Ben has company: Big Brother

From page A1

ers, was based on 33 criteria, ranging from constitutional protection to sound surveillance and phone-tapping.

Germany and Canada scored the best marks for civil liberties safeguards.

Privacy concerns in Britain have been highlighted by developments such as the planned introduction of national identity cards and a rapid growth in the deployment of security cameras.

Climate of suspicion

Thomas said that while some forms of surveillance could help combat crime and terrorism, others risked undermining trust and fostering a climate of suspicion.

He raised concern about commercial as well as government intrusion.

"Every time we use a mobile phone, use our credit cards, go online to search on the Internet, go electronic shopping, drive our cars, more and more information is being collected," he told the BBC. "Humans must decide our future, not machines."

More to come

A report for a London conference hosted by Thomas predicted surveillance would be ramped up even more in the next 10 years.

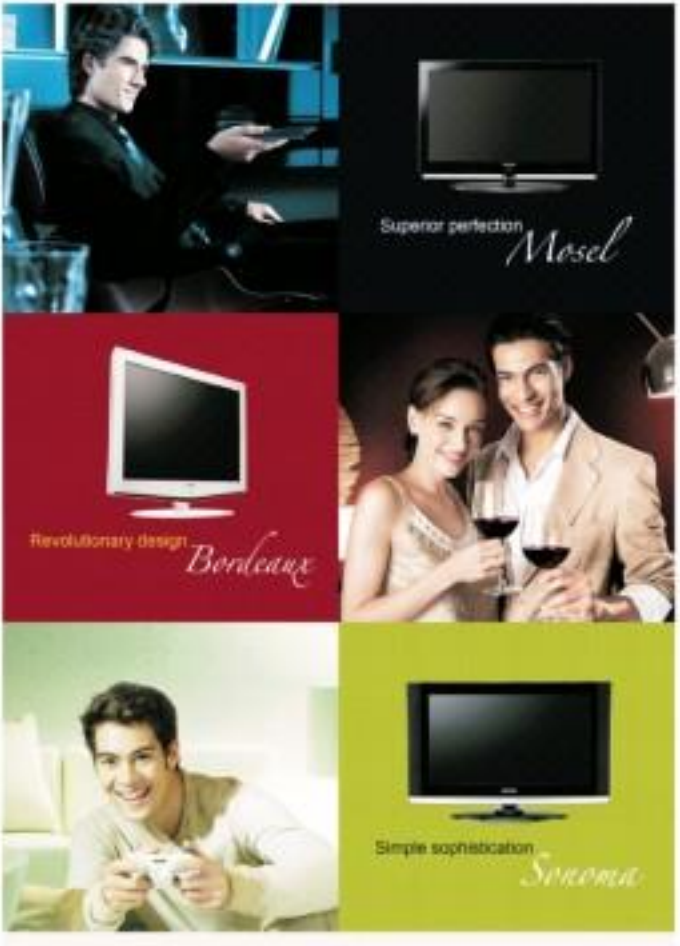
Among its foreseen modifications: devices in cars would help police to monitor speed and track selected vehicles; biometric passports would be screened for human health problems and their impact on productivity; monitoring of people's movements would intensify, with the use of unmanned aircraft and street-level security cameras with facial recognition technology.

Rights groups say governments around the world have used the war on terrorism as justification for increased snooping into the lives of citizens.

Tapping phone calls

They cite examples such as US surveillance of data on millions of private money transfers, and a UK government program, not authorized by the courts, to eavesdrop on international phone calls and e-mails by Americans suspected of links to terrorism.

Such programs were revealed to the US media by leaks condemned by the Bush administration, which defended them as important tools to uncover terrorist networks. Reuters



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SUKI SABADO

NOV 4 to NOV 10, 2006

Bush hits campaign trail to help embattled Republ

From page A1

Senate campaign organizations, **claimed strong early voting in a** long-shot race in Arizona, and said it was a "harbinger of a wave" that would benefit his party.

15 seats to gain House

Democrats must pick up 15 seats to gain control of the House. They need six in the Senate. All 435 House seats and 33 in the 100-member Senate are at stake in the elections on Nov. 7.

Five days before the election, Democratic strategists said Thursday [Friday in Manila] that **none of their incumbents** in the lower house of Congress was trailing...and Republicans did not disagree.

Republicans disputed Schumer's claim about Arizona, but even so, the Republican side of the political ledger was far less positive. Strategists already have written off the reelection prospects of incumbent Senators Rick Santorum in Pennsylvania and Mike DeWine in Ohio, as well as 10 or more seats in Republican hands in the House of Representatives.

Sources more Republican than rankers—power brokers and backbenchers, conservatives and moderates—struggled to survive in a campaign shadowed by the war in Iraq and political scandals at home.

Save-the-majority tour

"We've been through this before," Bush said in Billings, Montana, projecting confidence so he reminded us his save-the-majority tour "...We will survive the Senate and we will win the House."

His itinerary showed it would be a struggle. The pro-election flight plan for his Super Tuesday included areas of the country where Republicans have conspicuously uncomfortable—House seats in Colorado, rural Nevada and Kansas, and gubernatorial races in Arkansas, Iowa and Nevada, as well as Sen. Conrad Burns' bid for a fourth term in Montana.

In Nevada, Bush told voters that if Democrats take control of the Senate on Nov 7, they could affect what kind of judges sit on federal courts. Senators approve federal judges.

"If you want good, sound, conservative judges who will not legislate from the bench, you send Republicans back to the United States Senate," Bush said.

Whatever Nebraska, we was reluctant for a presidential visit, Bush's presence seemed needed to save a House seat the Democrats last held 50 years ago.

First Lady, too

Even First Lady Laura Bush was campaigning, sweeping through four states on Thursday—Iowa, Michigan, Illinois and California. The frenetic schedule capped a busy week for the first lady who has campaign stops in 18 states in the last full week before Tuesday's elections.

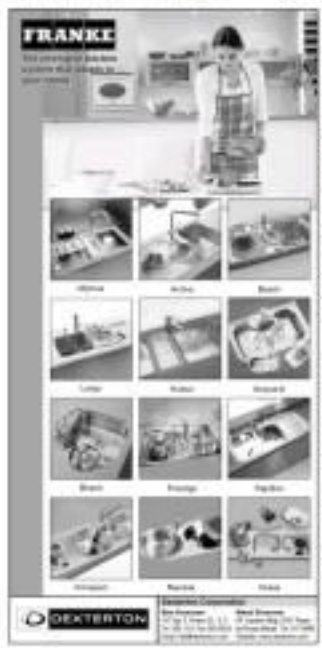
"This election is crucial in the future of our country" she told about 250 supporters in Waterloo, Iowa. "We must have a vote our national conversation."

Mrs. she joked, she had little choice. "When your spouse is in politics, you're in politics...whether you want to be or not," the said.

Democrats said they were using because of the public's growing dissatisfaction with the war in Iraq.

Polls show more Americans disapprove than approve of the way Bush is handling the war.

SAVE THE MAJORITY CAMPAIGN: President Bush joins a Republican Party rally in Billings, Montana, in the run-up to the Nov. 7 congressional midterm elections. AFP/DOUG MILLS



NBI: No proof of airport security breach

From page A1

port cold her he was able to smuggle components of a bomb on a flight from Manila to Davao City without being detected and that he conducted the operation as a part of a security test he was conducting.

She said he also told her that he took a video of the bomb components inside the aircraft's lavatory and showed her the video.

In its report to NBI Director Nestor Mantaring, the Bureau's Special Task Force (STF) said it had talked with both Macarubo and Dela Cruz, as well as with aviation security personnel.

Veteran journalist

"Sylvia has been a seasoned journalist for 16 years and could be considered a veteran already. She should have recorded their conversation, videotaped their interview and asked for a copy of Macarubo's videotape to [support] her story when she aired same," cast investigator Dennis Francisco said in his report.

DE LA CRUZ is not surprised by the NBI report.

MACARUBO denies bringing bomb component

The report, written by case investigator Dennis Francisco, also said: "Instead of this case resulted that the story ... had no factual basis to support her story."

The report noted what it called "inconsistencies" in Dela Cruz's account, including her statement that Macarubo wore a jacket during the flight to Davao. The surveillance video showed that he actually wore a polo shirt, the report said.

The report also said that Dela Cruz's two witnesses—civilian security professional Daniel Cruz and ABC 5 news manager Ed Lingao—failed to appear before the NBI to support her story.

Ex-US agent backs story

Daniel Cruz actually called to express distress and supported Dela Cruz's story.

The NBI report described Cruz as a graduate of De La Salle University and a former agent of the US Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA).

The report said that while Macarubo doubted Dela Cruz's story when he appeared at the NBI, he admitted that he traveled to Davao on Aug. 14 and held a 4-minutes seminar using a "dem's clay"—instead of a C4—as mentioned by Cruz.

Case deemed closed

It said Macarubo brought laptop computer on the NBI showed a "picture of an alleged bomb stored in a cellular phone inside a boom box/carry, but [the airplane] secretary on explosive by Dela Cruz."

The report concluded "Premises considered ... it is by recommended that this case closed and terminated as [the] accused is innocent."

Dela Cruz stood firm on story.

"I expect that result (from NBI)," he told the Inquirer, saying. "What matters to me that the important sector industry running the [airlines] the real story."

CRUZ supports own story

Isolated, forgotten villagers ..

From page A1

lief efforts has been aggravated by the slow response of some government agencies, she said.

Where are they?

"[These agencies] were nowhere when the disaster struck," Aguinaldo said. "But when we all expected them to respond swiftly, they open their time jelly in their offices, and worse, they even imagined the little layers to see operations."

She added, "Their apparent lack of concern has deprived [the PDRC] of even the most basic need—Goods aid reports on the cost of damages and the actions that the government needs to take to mitigate the impact of the disaster on people."

Nueva Vizcaya was placed under a state of calamity on Tuesday following the destruction wrought by Paeng, especially on Quezon and Kasibu.

Agriculture hardest hit

Both tourist resort-indeed from the rest of the province after flashfloods and landslides damaged roads.

At least six people have been reported killed and 30 others missing in the wake of the typhoon that struck the province on Monday.

Officials here report that the biggest loss of the province would be in agriculture, mostly in the form of damaged rice fields, destroyed citrus plantations and drowned farm animals.

Aguinaldo was also concerned over the condition of residents who were left homeless by the typhoon. They have since been living with relatives.

In trickles

"They prefer to live together than relocate in an evacuation center for we are worried because they are all cramped in these houses that were also hit by flooding, without the basic necessities," Aguinaldo said.

Village officials here also lamented the apparent lack of support from various government agencies, and stated that relief goods had been coming in trickles.

"In these times of crises, it is only normal for us to expect our government partners to at least ask about our situation. But to not happening cause [although] are a handful of them appear helping us," a barangay councilmember said.

Lang tzuk

On Thursday, the Department of Social Welfare and Development delivered P150,000 worth of relief goods here, while the government of Bonfal provided 50 sacks of medicines and cultural [illegible].

The National Food Authority also sent in 100 sacks of rice.

The relief goods in each village proper of Barangay [illegible] have to be hauled by villagers on a distance of 4 km [illegible] without any portion of it even [illegible].

Pls help for Kasibu

So far, no relief goods have reached typhoon hit village of Kasibu.

"Fortunately, food supply is much of a problem for our people," said Kasibu Mayor Sofronio Taytayan. "Our biggest concern the moment is getting what [illegible] the rest of the province. We the needs of the soonest possible time."

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—now a close majority of the war as a mistake and fewer support how the Democrats have handled the con-

ush showed no signs of ing as he spoke to a crowd Chicago, Illinoisans imagine this: We've in the of a war on terror, and one is never fundamental fights is ng, and yet the Democrats no plan for victory. They no idea how to win. Hands there is not a plan for victo-

giving up

the White House seems to be ing mood hands," Schumer ers on just of a bullish ew of the Democrats' ers for Senate races.

in an effort to strengthen their they keep reminding the n that there's not going to be change in Iraq," he said, re- ing to Bush's statement on Monday that he wanted Re- Secretary Donald H. Rums- to "make sure we don't walk d of Bush's term in January

ngsley the undeniable trouble confronted, some Republi- said they had made gains in recent days in at least some races that had earlier looked lost.

Bayles' race was one. Once far behind Democratic challenger Jon Tester in public and private polls, he appeared to have closed the gap in the campaign's closing days. Democrats said they were not worried, but Bush's visit, combined with a last infusion of cash by the Republican senatorial committee, suggested Republicans had not given up hope.

Republican strategists also said their prospects appeared relatively bright for a win in Texas that former House Majority

Leader Tom DeLay once held, and expressed hope they could pre vent the battle to replace disgraced former Republican Congressman Mark Foley in Florida. Foley resigned in a sex scandal in September.

At the same time, those Democrats have expanded them selves by advertising efforts into districts that most Democratic strategists said for the past few years were considered Republican strongholds in both parties until nearly 20 Republican-held seats could rip either way in a belt of states stretching from Connecticut through New York, Pennsylvania, Ohio and Indiana.

AP

Women may decide Virginia Senate race

MARION, VIRGINIA—THERE IS, UNquestionably a striking amount of controversy in the Virginia Senate race between Sen. George Allen, football-coaching Republican conservative, and Jim Webb, Democrat, Vietnam veteran and chronicler of the warrior tradition.

But the real struggle in this compelling fight centers, one of a handful that will determine control of the Senate, may be about winning votes from women.

In the final week before Election Day, both candidates have high-profile Virginia women campaigning on their behalf. Mary Matalin, the Republican strategist, is urging women to "talk to your girlfriends" on Allen's behalf. Lynda Webb, the wife of former Sen. Chuck Robb and daughter of President Lyndon Johnson, is hailing Webb for "understanding the needs of Virginia's families."

The Allen and Webb campaigns have attacked each other throughout the fall over their commitment (or lack thereof) to women's issues and concerns, and they are trading, in a large extent, which women's votes they can win. The internal being headlined this week, a woman named April Cain looks into the camera and declares, "I have two boys, one is 9 and one is 12."

"George Allen hasn't done anything on helping my family," Cain adds.

In a new commercial for Allen, put up by the National Republican Senatorial Committee, the female announcer intones that Webb's writings "routinely stereotype women as promiscuous objects."

"We don't have a gender gap," said Harry L. Pilson, director of a new Roanoke College poll, alluding to the Democrats' traditional advantage among women. Equally striking is that Webb is neck-and-neck with Allen among men, which is unusual for a Democrat.

Webb's campaign acknowledges that he has come to increase his support among women, but say he will realize that potential in the final days. "Sure, they did break through with this stuff that happened 20 years ago," said Kristen Decay Todd, Webb's press secretary. "But as the end the day, a lot of these women have small children, they care about education, they care about the war.

"They'll say, this stuff happened 30 years ago. But let's with me on things I care about today."

That same is made, in part, by the commercial that airing Cain, who argues that while Allen has been in the Senate, healthcare costs have continued to rise, "college tuition is out of control" and Allen has voted himself a pay raise. An other Webb ad noted that Allen "voted against family and enrolled Iraqi-born felons." New York Times News Service

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A hotel room is a very dangerous workplace, says Pinay worker

By Pet G. Cleto
Correspondent

TORONTO, CANADA—THE MORE THAN 10 international hotel chains and corporations, most of them headquartered in the United States and Canada, are now contending with a strong union campaign led by hotel workers, aptly called 'Hotel Workers Rising.'

Filipino hotel worker Estelita 'Estie' Barrozo is one of the heroes who spearhead the frontlines of the landmark campaign of UNITE HERE, a hotel, restaurant and apparel employees' union, with a 6,000 membership of Toronto hotel workers.

The union founders are UNITE, formerly the Union of Needle Trades, Industrial and Textile Employees, and HERE, the Hotel Employees and Restaurant Employees Union.

On Nov. 28, which Toronto Mayor David Miller proclaimed as Immigrant Hotel Workers' Day in the city for the period 2004-06, Estie and her comrades will make public their workplace issues with a rally and a forum at the Library Building downtown.

Filipinos make up 75 percent of all Toronto hotel workers, and immigrant workers of color are the overwhelming majority.

Hotels attendants like Estie receive pay ranging from $10 to $14 an hour. The hotel workers' median wage of $30,000 a year, one of the lowest income in the city, it is high relative to the estimated $10.8 billion in profit in 2005 of the overall lodging industry.

The current unrelieved, crippled by the unchanged room quota, makes the hotel rooms a very dangerous workplace, Estie says.

Model contract

The union envisions the unionized, model version of these big hotel chains globally, with economic models in North America becoming models in countries like the Philippines.

Having one model contract for all Toronto hotels is the current thrust of the campaign. UNITE HERE listed 75% of the hotel workers in the city as unorganized campaign targets 20 hotels in Toronto, where concerns exploit the rule.

The first hotel settlement—at the downtown Sheraton Hotel—is considered a victory and has been followed by contract settlements at the new Hilton hotels in the Downtown Hilton and the Airport Hilton.

Estie hopes the campaign will at to be successful at her hotel, the downtown Toronto Delta Chelsea. Already deep into a bitter fight over job security established 130 beds per night hotel, staff, and low wages and benefits, the workers have had no contract since January.

Early on in the talks, a member of the negotiating committee, Victoria Iobregoria, was fired, and during the International conference on AIDS in August, 70 of the workers, Estie included, were suspended for defying management's order to remove the human dignity name ensuring, which exposed the workers' solidarity with the conference.

Union/AIDS issue

For the hotel workers, it was both a union issue and an AIDS issue, and many conference delegates and labor activists saw it in the same light.

Many of the workers—overwhelmingly immigrants—would be spotted in many news reports as saying that poverty and the AIDS problem were interlinked, particularly in their home countries of origin.

The protest drew only a sprinkling of support from some of Toronto's immigrant communities, but the workers still thought that the representatives who did come were unsatisfactorily in response.

Two such representatives were minister Pura Velasco from the Philippines community and Alexis Ma from the Chinese community.

Prompt cues arrive by the workers, support from the conference, trade unionists, and public persons were such that management hurriedly took back the suspensions, but a little later, the hotel announced a snap to the arbitration and grievance process.

Estie's life as a room attendant and union activist is a far cry from her life as a freshly graduated midwife working at a hospital run by Dominican nuns in Davao in 1986.

Back then, she says, she didn't know a thing about unions. But today, she is as much renowned with the hotel workers as with her coworkers' awareness of their rights.

Proudly, she recounts how a worker responded to a union that went: "So what have you gained from wearing all those buttons and rallying? Those who did overtime would thank you because they earned a lot of money. You, what did you get?"

She says the worker replied simply "Respect."

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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

OPINION

Stealth and fraud

EDITORIAL

IF YOU ARE HARD PUT TO DEMOLISH THE LOGIC of a decision, small in language. This seems to be what the leaders of the people's initiative and their allies are doing after the Supreme Court junked their petition.

"Vicious," "un-Supreme Court-like" are some of the words being used to describe the verdict that branded the petition as "a grand deception" and "a dynastic fraud" on the people.

Did the Court exaggerate? This is what the Court said to explaining how it arrived at that conclusion:

• The people's initiative signature sheets passed around by Sigaw ng Bayan and the Union of Local Authorities of the Philippines from February to August this year for voters to sign on merely asked the question whether the people approved a shift from bicameral-presidential to a semi-parliamentary system of government. It did not contain the full text of the proposed changes. Based on Sec. 3, Article XVII of the Constitution, the deliberations of the 1986 Constitutional Commission, and American jurisprudence (to which our judiciary closely look to for guidance), this omission is fatal, posing "a significant potential for fraud."

• Raul Lambino of Sigaw claimed that they circulated, together with the signature sheets, printed copies of the draft petition and the amended petition they filed with the Commission on Elections on Aug. 25 and Aug. 30, respectively. Lambino later changed his statement and told the Court that it was only the Aug. 30 amended petition that Sigaw circulated with the signature sheets. Sigaw "would have this Court believe that it prepared the draft of the Aug. 30 amended petition almost seven months earlier, in February when they started gathering signatures." In fact, Sigaw's claim that it circulated the initiative petition appeared to be an afterthought made after some of the interveners pointed out that the petition did not comply with the full-text requirement. "The group is less candid with this Court in its belated claim that it printed and circulated, together with the signature sheets, the petition or amended petition."

• Ulap's Erico Aumentado averred that he caused the preparation of the petition in his personal capacity as a registered voter, "for and on behalf of" Ulap, as shown by Ulap Resolution No. 2006-02, "and as representative of the rank of signatories." The Court noted that the resolution was not attached to the petition; moreover, the official Ulap website said the resolution did not authorize Aumentado to prepare the Aug. 25 petition, or the Aug. 30 amended petition, albeit it "inspire[s] the proposals of the Consultative Commission on Charter change through people's initiative and referendum." But, the ConCom proposals "are vastly different" from Sigaw's proposed changes, the Court further said. The Ulap resolution is further "vastly ambivalent" (Sigaw's) claim that [it] circulated the draft petition with the signature sheets. It[] does not refer at all to the draft petition or to [Sigaw's] proposed changes."

• Lambino told the Court that Sigaw assured the people during the signature-gathering that the elections for the regular parliament would be held during the scheduled 2007 local elections, if the proposed changes were ratified before the 2007 elections. The text of the proposed Transitory Provisions, however, "belies" this claim, according to the Court. The text left it to the interim parliament to decide when to hold the election for the regular parliament, thus in effect allowing the interim parliament, whose members would be the present members of Congress, to "continue to function indefinitely" until "its members decide to call for new parliamentary elections."

• Within 45 days from the ratification, the interim parliament is supposed to convene to propose further amendments or revisions to the Constitution. Not only is this subject matter "totally unrelated" to the proposed shift in the form of government, the Court said, it would also have opened the floodgates to more amendments that the electorate could not possibly know at the time of voting. American jurisprudence calls this "logrolling" and outlaws this in initiatives. "Logrolling confuses and even deceives the people." A US court warned about the "inadvertence, stealth and fraud" in logrolling.

From the discourse of the Court, stealth and fraud accompanied the Sigaw/Ulap petition every step of the way—from the time it was introduced for signature-gathering, to the way it was defended in Court, to its wordings. Given this, the Court's language may have been too kind, though candid enough. We venture with every thing is said.

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A dumping ground Senate

SEPARATE OPINION

Dagyang A. Cruz

THE RECENT SWS SURVEY OF THE PRESIDENTIAL senatorial candidates showed that 16 women in the 2007 senatorial elections was not well received by many discriminating voters. It added to the growing unpopularity of the present Senate compared to its predecessors. Not that in the penally remembered past was honored by the likes of Quezon, Osmeña, Recto, Roxas, Tañada, Tolentino and other worthy luminaries of our race.

The winning circle predicted by the survey is disgraced for its mediocrity. It includes the now compulsory number of entertainers from stage and screen, and the inexperienced heirs from political dynasties travelling to relatively safer hold on political, bought or worthless constituencies. The better qualified and more perceptive voters in the elite, the do-nothing Joker Arroyo, are somewhere near the bottom of the list, for lack not of qualifications but only of campaign funds.

Past and present moves and television stars continue to dominate the 24-seat-capped chamber when it passed resolution 1962 (HB 6300) and House defended it against the massive onslaughts of the Catholic Church. Republic Act 9369 came from the silver screen but he had a college education and served well as the appointed deputy de corps in Cambodia. Ambassador Padilla was a basketball player but he also did a law degree. Tito Sotto was a talented writer before he was elected to the Senate.

Here we have Senators Gloria Legarda, Bong Revilla and Jinggoy Estrada, about whom there is hardly anything worth mentioning except that they are popular celluloid heroes who can be rescued but not knowing much about the Constitution that they may or may not have read much less understand. And Tessie Aquino Oreta herself has not made it to the Senate, is said to be possessing law character now, with his unknown credentials, to be a member of that chamber or an mayor of Manila.

With such a dismal prospect, the Senate of the future is not likely to be responsive to the people's needs as it was before when it had a more responsible membership. One is almost tempted to agree with the resolution of Speaker Jose de Venecia that it should be abolished and leave the task of legislation (and nuisance run of the laws as well) to a unicameral legislature to be headed by him as the President-elect of 1998. The only trouble is that the incompetents from the abolished Senate will then run for that Parliament, to be subsidized like Congress by the present delinquent voters.

The story is told that when arguing with a colleague for the retention of the Senate in the 10 Congress, Washington asked the latter why he had poured his tea from the cup to the saucer, to use the practice then. "Why to cool it, of course," was the reply. "Then," said the presiding, "here is the explanation "to the function of the Senate vis-à-vis the House of Representatives."

The Senate, for all its present weaknesses, still remains the more important House of Representatives. That is why in an impeachment case, to cite just one argument, only one-third of the congressional votes needed to prosecute, but it is the Senate that rules the respondent and may convict him by not less than two-thirds of its members. President Clinton was cleanly acquitted by the Republican to the House of Representatives, but some of their participation in the Senate even joined the Democratic majority in acquitting him.

Considering the general incompetence of the House of Representatives, and notwithstanding the present unreliability of the senators in general, I am still for retaining the Senate against the self-serving designs of the State Law Coalitions that are now in power and in dispensable condition. The senators should be elected from a grouping of specified representative districts as under the Jones Law and not as large, that is, by the whole nation, which has proved ineffective, terribly expensive and dangerously undemocratic.

The hope that the election of senators at large will prepare them for the highest office in the land has proved to be a terrible joke. The campaign will exact hundreds of millions of pesos, usually from suspicious sources, that will exclude the able but less solvent candidates. The senator can obtain control of any particular province, municipality for the provision and improvement. False publicity can make him more popular where he is less known, especially for his major duties and private peccadilloes. Under the present system, a senator elected by the rest of the votes my may not even win the support of those neighborhoods and towns.

There are other arguments in support of the old senatorial districts that I wrote about in this column some years ago. It was under that system that, unlike some flash-in-the-pan members of the present Senate, the pre-war senators established their leadership over their respective constituents while also guiding the confederate and effectively serving the interests of the entire nation. And they did not have to travel by private jet planes and buy votes all over the Philippine archipelago to inform their expenses from the pork barrel.

Hogwash

GET REAL

Sylvia Cuñar-Hontiveros

ANY ASSERTION TO THE EFFECT THAT THE latest Supreme Court decision on people's initiative did not heed the people's voice, or disregarded their sovereign will, or was a victory of the elite over the mass, is hogwash. The Court did heed the people's sovereign will, as expressed in the Constitution, because it disallowed an initiative petition that did not comply with the Constitution (Sec. 2, Art. XVII). For that matter, the petition did not even comply with BM 6725 (the Initiative and Referendum Law), which in 1997 the Court declared insufficient to implement an initiative on constitutional amendments, but is now declared sufficient by 10 sitting justices.

In short, the Court saved us, the Filipino people, from what it accurately and graphically called a grand deception, a gigantic fraud. The changes being proposed were calculated by the government and its minions hailing from the "we, the people." They just got caught doing it.

That a second attempt at people's initiative has been shot down by the Supreme Court (the first was in 1997) does not mean that this constitutional weapon of the people against an unbending, indifferent legislature (the term used by Raoul Lambino, author of the SAP, in the People's Initiative a diver and kicking to other jurisdictions, particularly to the United states (as pan-owned cars when there). Recall we have to do is conform with the following checklist, based on the Court decision.

First, the amendment must be directly proposed by the people themselves (the petition). The way to show that, per American jurisprudence, is by putting the proposed amendment on the face of the signature sheets or clearly indicating it as an attachment, so that it can be assumed that the signer read the petition before affixing her signature on the sheet. This is basic—but was not done in the Lambino initiative.

The Supreme Court's decision stun Lambino's submission, in the hearing, that he had printed only 100,000 copies of the petition (0.1 mil-

lion signatures, 10 is a sheet would need at least 100,000 copies). Even the signature sheets submitted to the Comelec had no petition attached. It is understandable, the petition and amendment was rather long, and would have been very costly to reproduce. If printed in small fonts in a newspaper, it would need two whole columns lengths of space.

While being so to the second guideline: a people's initiative petition must cover only one subject matter. Otherwise it would be logrolling. There is a list of jurisprudence on this; it is also prohibited by RA 6735; the practical reason is that one subject matter will be easier to understand and will probably be short (and hence easy to scrutinize or interpret to a signature sheet). Poor-envisioned an initiative drastic "...can then embark a petition containing a piecen of paper for the entire the proposition" [emphasis supplied]. A piece of paper, not a sheaf of papers—not two whole columns lengths in a newspaper.

Which is related to the third guideline: the proposal can only be an amendment, not a revision. It may sound like nitpicking, but it is substantive matter—because just the Constitution, the people can propose amendments by initiative, but not revisions (only a constituent assembly or a constitutional convention can do this). The Supreme Court struck down the Lambino initiative because it was a revision—although Justice Reynato Puno and other justices have argued that the changes "effect substantial, not mere amendments."

Justice Antonio Carpio's ponencia distinguishes between the two: "revision broadly implies a change that alters a basic principle in the Constitution, like altering the principle of separation of powers or the system of checks and balances.

"On the other hand, amendment broadly refers to a change that adds, reduces, or deletes without altering the basic principle involved, e.g., reducing the voting age from 18 to 15 or reducing Filipino ownership of mass media from 100% to 60%."

In California, the courts have developed a two-part test to distinguish between the two. The quantitative test "asks whether the proposed change to the constitution is so extensive as to change directly the 'substantial entirety' of the constitution by the deletion or alteration of numerous existing provisions." "If so, revision; if not, amendment. The qualitative test "requires into the qualitative effects of the proposed change ... whether the change will accomplish so far reaching changes in the nature of our basic governmental plan as to amount to a revision."

Justice Carpio visualizes a spectrum—at one end, green for amendments; at the other, red for revisions. "Towards the middle of the spectrum, colors fuse and difficulties arise in determining whether there is an amendment or revision." But: "[T]he person initiative is indisputably located at the far end of the red spectrum." Why? Merging the legislative and executive branches is a radical change in the structure of government abolishing one chamber of Congress alters the system of checks and balances and affects the legislature. And on the courts of Associate Justice Romeo J. Callejo Sr., the Lambino initiative would affect no less than 105 provisions of the Constitution.

In sum, the people's initiative to amend the Constitution must be performed by the people themselves and not by a few good men and women, and must be something that adds, reduces or deletes without altering the principles involved. When we've got this through our heads, we're good to go.

Dazzling the Asean Summit leaders

TWO DAYS AFTER THE SUPREME COURT DECIsion, Speaker Jose de Venecia's wife Gloria called a press conference in Manila to brandish a document Makati prosecutors, or "dasis sa", JDV believes, are also asked Presidente Macapagal-Arroyo, who was in the neighborhood for another event, to drop by Presidente's place for a chat and be interviewed with a photographer about "what happened" with "The Hole." I've always suspected what's clearly politicized commissioning, so I'd rather dwell on GMA's interesting remarks about the Asean presidents' visit to Cebu for the Summit of ASEAN Leaders and the ins dialogue-ga among.

* * *

We asked the questions on everyone's mind: Did she conveniently remove to Mandaue being rushed by Cebu Gov. Dumduelyn Garcia for Belated in time for the Summit in the second week of December? GMA recalled that during her visit to Cebu a couple of weeks earlier, she told Garcia she wanted to see at least a roof over it. That was done promise, and an empowering formation to helping to finish it. Garcia acknowledged the support and imparted Nov. 23 deadline. GMA said that as the very least the conveniences will be used by the Summit media. Plus it calls for the leaders to use a seat on the lawn of Mactan Shangri-La.

* * *

I told GMA that I had learned from Sun's Solon Cruz, Percy Moreno, that he's doing the Filipino dress for the Summit dinner. Could she elaborate? The question was, more specifically, about the formative details, at least for the evening, as she explained her idea of the national entertainment program for the gala night. Her eyes lighting up, she said that the Filipino dress will be designed after she had consulted leave the leaders like ex-first Lady Imelda and Ilonga of having the traditional and contemporary. GMA's team devised a colonial line on designs for the leaders during the Summit Dinner at the Manila Ballroom. On the planning board since last January, it's rightly mixed from orchestra all the way to the Philippine Madrigal Singers. Manuel Pi and Philippine Airlines Legina Aquino Buddenbaum, UNFPA executive director, is in charge.

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* * *

Political Tidbits

Belinda Olivares-Cantemprate

The dress will open with the styles and sounds of Cebu's Sinulog. It's the annual weekend Sandiwan group. Then comes a "parade-of-nations" to the music of Cebu's Bayo Philharmonic Orchestra under the baton of Ferdinand Sabate, with the special consent of Freddie Aguilar, a big favorite of Asian leaders, with his evergreen "Anak," still the theme in these Asian languages. Then follows the Mandaue Children's Choir, while the world-famous Barcelona Dancers take over—a type of ballroom dancing and dance routine.

After that comes the fashion show of Pitoy Moreno, featuring 36 outfits representing the 16 participating nations. Pitoy will train them all 36 with 36 Filipino models. Our host's impression of their inspirations from the traditional designs of the 36 nations, three XBOS are very excited as she described the Chinese opera coat that will capture the attention of the guests with its wide as high as the thigh. The Italian outfit will resplendent 23 yards of gorgeous silk. In true Bollywood fashion, Modeling Pitoy's gowns will be Indian actress Aishwarya Rai, one of the most beautiful women such as Lucero Quispe, Ara Rodino and Gaile Sobrevinas. So they match down the aisle, three campaign schools will flash scenes from the various countries and highlight the design sketches, the gowns and the models.

* * *

With dozens coming for lookups, who will sing the signature song of the youth, "Small Voice," and her from "Les Miserables" and "Miss," Then comes the Philippine Coco with "Superstar Stars," Sunny "If" Jaime closes the entertainment with exclusive composition for Asean, done to the Hindu beat to the "Getting and Sharing" theme. It is to be performed by Sharon Cuneta, the next PJ's cup, consisting of 20 world nightclubs in various Asian languages. Serving as backdrop will be dance interpretations from the host countries as rendered by Filipino artists Arnel De Ramos (Brunei) DJ Zamora, Music on the continental beat.

* * *

The glad Standard Tuloy columnist Fel Maragay wants to silence from the Supreme Court's majority decision last month upholding Gen. Hermogenes Esperon's appointment as the country's national security adviser to the Feb. 23, 1987 plebiscite that approved the Constitution. Framer Antonio Lopez opposed that the Constitution was approved in 15.8 million votes, representing 76.2 percent of total votes cast, making it "the real voice of the people." By contrast, he said, political groups ordered "yes" votes in the minimum "to satisfy false promises." Hamguy said comparing the two votes like comparing apples and oranges because the 1987 plebiscite was to ratify the 1987 Constitution, while the Esperon case was to ratify a single appointment. Hamguy said "by parochial standards, 4.3 million signatures, simply asked for a plebiscite to be held on the proposed amendments. If the high court only wanted to see how the people felt about the proposed amendments, it should have ordered the plebiscite.

* * *

Two days before the decision was handed down, the latter was that it would be 9-5-1 vote in favor of the esperon. But the high court's majority seem to want to reverse this. Sun columnist Manolo Villanueva reported yesterday that one justice had already made up his mind to vote for the esperon appointment. Villanueva said he expected the issue to the Comelec and had earlier prepared a separate concurring opinion. Villanueva said he revealed his vote at the last moment, "apparently ... enough to [Chief Justice Reynato] Puno and his three allies to avert a majority vote." Asa Ariz Javier was also said to be in favor of the latter two, said Senate President Joseph Estrada, who appointed Javier, praised the decision.

* * *

Pilo said petitioners were surprised only by the pro-Chavez people."

The goals of peace

At Large

Rina Jimenez-David

WHAT IS NOT A DESTINATION. IT IS A MIND, a long and tortuous one. (Hint: it is the wise—the only way to progress is to the fulfillment of our human potential.)

The late Ambassador Surendranath Mirchandani, a former senior Indonesian diplomat, summed up what in turn was the goal of all peace-building efforts—not just the resolution of hostilities and the ending of violence, but the full development and enhancement of peace which would allow communities and people to achieve their full potential.

Mirchandani was the speaker in the latest of a series of lectures and panel discussions held in observance of the 40th anniversary of the GRP-MNLF Peace Agreement, signed in 1996 to great acclaim and wondering, but today viewed largely as a "failed" agreement (or, depending on who you talk to, a "successful" one) and even casualties of the rejection of a contributing government for development.

The retired Indonesian diplomat was the third person to speak on the agreement from the "third party perspective," having chaired the negotiating process that led to the signing of the Final Peace Agreement between the Philippine government and the MNLF in Jakarta and Manila. Mirchandani was also the chairman of the GRP-MNLF negotiations. Anyone was also most properly chief negotiator for his government with the host nationality movements in the peace talks which he had also successfully led by the devastations wrought by the tsunami.

As he recalls it, the negotiations between the Philippine government and the MNLF which included the Organization of Islamic Conference, were "exciting, challenging, suspenseful and difficult." Anyone got involved in the process as early as 1993, an invitation which he said he could not refuse, especially as it was diplomats' assignment, including foreign postings. "Sometimes, I got so tired," he confessed, remembering how he would visit the negotiating panels in Jakarta and return to new concessions that had been proposed on the negotiating table.

* * *

"I EXPERIENCED the entire gamut of emotions—from high enthusiasm due to a surge of hope to a sense of downright frustration and even despair," Mirchandani remembers. "But we persevered. We made small breakthroughs as our negotiations. Then a big breakthrough."

The "secret" to achieving agreement between two parties lasted is conflict? "You have to persevere and be imaginative."

But the diplomat-peacemaker also he was quite aware that the aftermath of these euphoric moments in 1996 has been more than just disappointing for both Filipino officialdom and the people of Mindanao. Especially for the latter, he acknowledged that his own country is still in the process of settling its own internal conflicts and establishing authentic democracy and meaningful human rights.

Still, said Mirchandani, "hope is still very much alive in Indonesia that eventually we will attain a range of political, economic and social development."

What is the basis for that hope, for both Indonesia and the Philippines? "The basis of our hope is the knowledge that some measure of peace is already with us...a peace that is not guaranteed to last but which can be nurtured and be carefully nurtured, a peace that is marred by violence every now and then but remains alive and can be invested built on builds as long as our best people are willing to work and make sacrifices for it."

* * *

INDEED, as other speakers indicated during the lecture sponsored by the Philippine Council for Islamic and Democracy (PCID), Konrad Adenauer Foundation, and the Institute for Autonomy and Governance with support from the former Schreiner Foundation and the United Nations Development Programme, the threats after the signing of the agreement has shown just how fragile "peace" can be.

Former Sen. Santanina Rasul bemoaned how her own foundation's efforts to train Subo community women in peace building and monitoring are hampered by the "culture of violence" that spawns violations of human rights in Sulu," she remarked, noting the need for a peace agreement that can be effectively implemented and enforced."

The question now on everyone's mind, with the abandonment of the GRP-MNLF FPA, the pact, is: "Did the peace agreement improve the life of the Bangsa Moro?"

The answer to some fairly obvious, given the continuing fighting years of bloodshed and the evolution of the conflict with the MILF (for this Sayaf and now the jemaah islamiyah), as well as numbing poverty and underdevelopment in the region.

* * *

Sarah Raud cited findings of the PCID, in depth preliminary report assessing development in the ARMM, where the peace agreement, that showed the low economic priority accorded the Arroyo presidency.

"It is true that in the years immediately after the agreement, ARMM, which was covered by the agreement, received more than its regular budget appropriations," she said. "But there's now no figure called Extra Ordinary Assistance from the national government. Instead, the budget is supplemented by foreign assistance, mostly from the United States, which is not as socio-economic development as it is for counter-terrorism."

Another participant said, "It seems that every time progress seems to be getting off the ground to disturbance and people begin making plans, something happens and we're back to square one, with the government unwilling

A wasteland republic?

WHERE CAN YOU FIND A COUNTRY acclaimed as a biodiversity superstar yet made into a pincushion to foreign extractive industries, even as its pristine forests are being denuded, its mountains laid bare and flattened, its fertile soil and potable aquifers poisoned and laid waste; and its precious fresh water bodies and seas exterminated?

Where can you find a people turned into underwater guinea pigs by unscrupulous transnational corporations in an experiment that threatens the food chain and the entire ecological fabric? The country's rich biodiversity is being threatened by genetically engineered organisms (GMOs or GMOs), just as our fishrays are realizing the advantages of organic farming over the "sophisticated" model that uses chemical pesticides and fertilizers, and an awakened world has put a higher premium on organic products and is rejecting GMOs.

To complete the unsolved betrayal and criminal assault on the Filipino people's environmental and human rights comes the Japan-Philippines Economic Partnership Agreement (JPEPA), opening the Philippines to all kinds of wastes, including toxic and hazardous wastes, from that country. The agreement degrades not only our environment but also our very humanity, dignity and self-respect!

Realizing that it could not deal with dioxin contamination from incinerator ash, the Philippines, under the Clean Air Act, banned the use of incinerators. Now it will be inside the dumping ground for such deadly residues. The Ecological Waste Management Act (RA 9003) prohibits dumps. The JPEPA will make the whole country a dump. We are still struggling with our toxic waste problem, but Chum Mongsapaf-Arroyo now wants our country to take on a bigger and more dangerous waste problem. Why?

The environment is the life source of a large majority of our people. It must be protected for their survival. The way to deal with the mass poverty in the country is not to give dole-outs to poison the people's sources of livelihood and trash them, how to maximize earnings from them. "Teach, give fish. Give fishing rods and teach them how to fish," as goes the old saying. But what if all the fish are gone... thanks to environmental abuse?

Richard Stanley, an eminent conservation specialist at the University of Alaska Fairbanks observed: "With world attention focused almost exclusively on terrorism, another, even more serious security threat deepens—the global environmental, humanitarian crisis. Humanity is quickly destroying the biosphere in which we live, ourselves and our future along with it." This, our conviction, he said, is "the real clear and present danger." Indeed, what would happen if we lose our food and water security?

To safeguard the environment for economic development, which is dependent on the former, is self-destructive. You cannot build a nation by destroying its environment. Prosperity cannot be achieved in a wasteland.

—ESTER CUNEO BUTAGIE,
founding chair,
Concerned Citizens Against Pollution,
estherbut@yahoo.com

'Pure and simple bigotry' is Montalvan's, not UST's

THIS REFERS TO THE OCT. 23 COLUMN of Antonio J. Montalvan II. He said that "a senior [of the morning board exams] is the price UST (University of Santo Tomas) wants the schools—especially those in the provinces—that did well in the exams to pay for humiliating it [UST]." Montalvan's added that UST believes that "provincial schools are unlikely to emerge from the exams because they are not at par with Manila schools."

Montalvan's words reminded me of a comedy routine where an African-American guy took everything as racial and as a direct assault to his roots and to his being a member of the minority. Except that Montalvan's context not funny.

I do not recall a news story—in newspapers, on radio or TV—where UST people were reported to have said it is impossible for the provincial universities to top the licensure exams. Montalvan suggested that the position of UST on the retake committee majority and is concentrated by exempt. Such strong accusations a responsible columnist should not tell the public without substantial proof. Just he tells it to the five of an already smoldering issue. (By the way, he condemned UST for saying, without offering any proof, that the failings might have occurred also in other parts of the country.)

It matters only UST that changed for the retake, and I congratulate the people who stood upon the backbone of this fight despite knowing that the majority saw them playing the spoiler's role. The majority is not always right. Quit look at our congressmen and the last impeachment complaint. I did going against the tide to fight for something you strongly believe in takes courage. UST and company were after the review centers involved in the failings—not after the training graduates of our provincial schools. The university said it wanted a retake so that the integrity of the nursing profession would be preserved.

Montalvan may not want to believe this but it was "pure and simple bigotry" for him to suggest that UST just wants to get even. We may differ in values we stand on issues but neither of us has the right to assume, much less imagine, the intentions behind another people's actions.

—ERICH VALENZUELA,
UP Amihan Bd.,
San Juan, Metro Manila

Colonel Binay defiled Marine uniform

THIS IS MY REACTION TO A NEWS photo which showed Makati Mayor Jejomar Binay wearing a Philippine Marine uniform adversarial, with an orange civilian shirt underneath, without the HRT (the rapid, patrol-and boots that should be worn with it, and with long, unkempt hair, while flaunting his being a colonel. To put it simply, Binay defiled the Marine uniform.

Sir Marine officers are taught from one army first day-while the corps to respect our uniform (next to our flag) and to wear it proudly if you go to the fronlines and to almost bankrupt where a Marine is stationed, you will notice that he wears his uniform proudly. He will not dare to wear it un-ironed, or with dirty boots, or with his hair long, or...or he will not wear it at all.

The Marine uniform carries with it the proud martial tradition of the Philippine Marine Corps.

A long time ago, while I was still in Mindanao, I heard our former commandant, Brig. Gen. (now senator) Rodolfo Biazon, in reply to a question, tell a journalist: a Marine stands out because of his uniform. As a young officer then, I thought that was a blush answer coming from a Marine commandant. But later in my career, I realized he was right. The Marine is different when he wears his uniform. The uniform is a source of pride, and as such, it makes the Marine more proud, more disciplined and a better warrior.

Biazon went on to say that even the generals and officers of other major services are ashamed to stand near or beside an ordinary Marine because the latter wears the uniform more smartly and with more "class and spunk" than they do.

I hope "Colonel" Binay and conservatives like him will come to realize this and respect our uniform as a true Marine.

When I was a young lieutenant based in Jolo, I saw a civilian wearing a Marine cap (just like Binay did). I asked him respectfully if he was a Marine. (If he were, I would surely have rebuked him for his shabby appearance and disrespect for the uniform.) I told him to remove it and surrender it to us, which he did. I told him never to wear a Marine uniform again.

Mayor Binay should wear the Marine uniform with dignity and respect next time, and he should understand that this constitutes no political undertones. I just felt offended by his wearing our uniform improperly. I don't even know the issues he is fighting for. I hope he understands this.

—FLORDELIZ MERCADO,
Camp Aguinaldo, Quezon City,
pfurlel_2004@yahoo.com.ph

'Signw' should stop deceiving the people

AS I EXPECTED, THE SUPREME COURT dismissed Sigaw ng Bayan's petition on people's initiative.

I understand the next political strategy of the administration-congressman, headed by Speaker Jose de Venecia, is to amend the Constitution through a constitutional assembly. This media will meet the same fate as the people's initiative.

Dr. Venecia and his colleagues should give up in trying to deceive the Filipino people. He should realize that people can be fooled some of the time but not all of the time. While the Filipino people sometimes allow lies or apathy to overwhelm them, there is a point beyond tolerance.

Let us now prepare for the elections in May 2007.

—RICARDO TEJAS JR.,
Palomar, San Diego Compound,
Carlsbad, Cavite City

Palace persecuting political opposition

THE SUSPENSION OF BAGUIO CITY MAYOR Bernard Tribiliad and the attempt to suspend Makati Mayor Jejomar Binay showed that President Macapagal-Arroyo is hell-bent on destroying the opposition in an undemocratic fashion. Opposition mayors in Metro Manila like Caloocan's Enrico Echiverri and San Juan's JV Ejercito may be next in the line of suspension. (PEE, 10/10/06)

But a local governor who belongs to the administration coalition, with more than 17 administrative and criminal cases filed against him in the Office of the Ombudsman, is still in office, and there is no indication that Malacañang is going to suspend him.

Why is the Department of Interior and Local Government in a hurry to suspend opposition mayors six months before the May 2007 elections? It is clear that Malacañang is in a panic-stricken binge determined against the political opposition.

—GUIDOBERTO C. PATULA JR.,
Dasi, Camalaniugan, Cagayan

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Cops' raid on nuns yields no rebel

BUTUAN CITY—POLICE Wednesday raided the convent of the Religious Sisters of the Good Shepherd (RGS) here.

Sr. Maureen Cardeño, RGS spokesperson, yesterday said at least seven policemen, in full battle gear, stormed the RGS convent in Barangay Ampayon around 9 a.m. and asked for Sister Crisanta Ortiz.

Madlos is spokesperson of the National Democratic Front (NDF) in Mindanao and is based in Europe.

Cardeño said they were told by the police that Madlos was hiding in the convent and that the policemen were sent to arrest him.

But she said the RGS sisters knew they were only being harassed.

"Sr. confirms is stronger certain, this pattern of militarization and harassment perpetrated by servicemen of the government, which is clearly deliberate and systematic," Cardeño said in a statement.

She said the policemen, led by a Supt. Wilfredo Reyes, were not armed with search warrants and forced themselves into the convent.

"They did not present any search warrants. They forced themselves into the rooms of the sisters and all over the convent," Cardeño said.

She said when the policemen failed to find Madlos, they hurriedly left.

Chief Supt. Inocencio Nuñez, Caraga police chief, confirmed the raid but said they have no intention of harming the nuns.

Nuñez said it was part of the police procedure to arrest "terrorists."

"The received reports that a secret member was seen in the area so my men responded immediately to protect the sisters," he said.

Nuñez also offered an apology to the RGS community.

"But the encounter cannot be stated, I extend my sincere apology," he told the Inquirer.

Audrey Lumawag, spokesperson of the human rights group Karapatan, said the raid was a clear indication that the Arroyo administration wouldn't spare the religious in its campaign against the insurgency.

"It is not only the militants and personalities critical to the government. This time, religious sector is being subjected to cases too. It shows that no one's safe from the rule of Arroyo regime," she said.

In Muntinlupa, soldiers and Muslim separatists clashed anew.

Both said they were just defending themselves.

Thursday's clash came a few days after four rebels were killed in another clash in the same town.

Lt. Col. Alberto Ando, spokesperson of the Army's 6th Infantry Division, said about 30 guerrillas opened fire on the detachment of the Army's 64th Infantry Battalion in Kabuy village around 4:30 p.m.

He said the soldiers fired back, triggering a 15-minute clash that forced the rebels to withdraw.

No one was reported hurt in the clash, he said.

Soldiers only defended their position, Ando said. He added: "We have passed our troops there. This is a violation of the cessation of hostilities and we are filing a protest," Ando said.

The Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) said militiamen, backed by soldiers, have been harassing its members in Kabuy, forcing the rebels to fire back.

"We are sticking by the ceasefire but they keep on attacking us," Eid Kabalu, MILF spokesperson, said.

The MILF has been blaming militiamen controlled by Maguindanao Gov. Datu Andal Ampatuan Jr. for the resumption of hostilities in the province.

He said two months ago, Ampatuan's men also attacked MILF positions in Shariff Aguak, triggering days of hostilities that sent more than 3,000 families to evacuation centers.

Kabalu said the attacks constitute to threaten the peace talks.—Frinston Estiandan and Joseffy Mabrouc, Inquirer Mindanao

4 antidrug agents face kidnap raps

By Yolanda Entoto-Fuentes
Inquirer Northern Luzon

LINGAYEN, PANGASINAN—FOUR agents of the Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency in the Cordillera are facing kidnap-for-ransom charges after they allegedly took and imprisoned Brgy. Chief Antonio Lasso and PO3 Edwin Garcia overnight in the house of the victims and demanded P400,000 from them.

Pangasinan said police were still looking for two other persons involved in the extortion. He described them as "owners" of the suspects.

Supt. Nick Tabios, Pangasinan deputy police director, said the kidnap-for-ransom charges were filed against the six suspects in the prosecutor's office in Tayug town on Friday.

Tabios, who supervised the operations against the PDEA agents, said the suspects asked Dionesio Evangelista and his stepmother, Lita Marquez, to give them P400,000 before they would free the kidnap victims.

The suspects took the victims when they said they had an encounter Aboard a Toyota Revo, the group drove around eastern Pangasinan and forced Evangelista and Marquez to produce the amount.

He said police teams planned a dragnet operation in which the P130,000 would be delivered to the suspects. With Alexis Pepa in Manila

Family of 6, including 4 children, slain in Albay town

POLICE and neighbors view the bodies of the Morel family outside their house. The suspects are clueless over why they were killed and neighbors are too afraid to talk.

DARAGA, ALBAY—A FAMILY OF six was found murdered in a village here and police were searching not only for suspects, but also for a motive.

Neighbors of the victims were too shocked to say anything to investigators.

Each wounds apparently from bolos and sharpened bamboo poles were found in the bodies of Jesus Morel, 40; his wife Marilyn, 38; and their children Kenneth, 8; Peping Jr., 5; Jesse Jr., 3; and Gil, 4.

Police found the bodies of Jesus and Marilyn on top of each other while the bodies of the children lay beside them in a pool of blood.

The children's faces bore gaping wounds and strands of hair were strewn beside their bodies.

Chief Insp. Rogelio Berazaí, Camalig police chief, said the attack happened between 9-10 p.m. The village was still without electricity after Typhoon "Milenyo" destroyed power lines in the area.

Berazaí said he believed the suspects confronted Jesus and dragged him to come out of the house. "But because Jesus refused to go out of the house, the suspects hacked weeks at the private windows and then forcibly entered the house," he said.

The windows were separated by metal grills.

Jose Mendi, a brother of Jesus, who came to visit the family at 6 a.m. Friday, said police he was shocked to see all the things in the house in disarray and the jalousie windows broken.

"And then I saw the bloodied bodies of my brother and his wife piled on top of each other while their children were lying down beside them in the kitchen. It was as if the killers intentionally hid their bodies there," he said.

He immediately informed a relative, Romeo Morel, Tiwaga village chief, about what he saw.

The village chief could not offer any explanation why the family would be murdered in such a grisly fashion.

Police discovered two gunshot wounds in Jesus' abdomen but couldn't say yet what type of gun was used.

Supt. Roger Ramirez, Albay provincial police director, said police are having a hard time determining the possible motives in the killings and who the suspects could be.

He said the multiple murders could be the work of two or three persons.

Ramirez urged villagers to help the police solve the case by providing information on what could have happened.

Camalig Mayor Rommel Muñoz and Ministers against Crime and Corruption chair Dante Jimenez appealed for help from relatives and neighbors living some 4 to 5 meters from the victims' house who had refused to cooperate with the police.

"Whoever knows anything about these killings, I am asking you to please report to the police whatever you know so that we can solve this heinous crime," Muñoz said.

Tiwaga is located 6 km from Mayon volcano and has a population of close to 1,200 persons.

Hilda Anne Orbeta, Inquirer Southern Luzon

Croc attacks, kills girl as she crossed Palawan town river

PUERTO PRINCESA CITY—THE brutal of a 9-year-old girl believed to have been eaten by a crocodile was recovered in a river in Rizal town, 200 km south of this city, said the police yesterday.

Senior Supt. Artemio Pilacan, Palawan police director, identified the victim as Joanna Cleofe-tomas, a Grade 3 pupil and resident of Barangay Pinalangan in Rizal town.

He said the girl was crossing a shallow river late Tuesday with her 11-year-old brother, Christopher, after watching television from a neighbor's house when the incident happened.

"While the two were coming the river, Christopher suddenly heard his sister cry for help. He said he saw a large crocodile bite his sister's foot," according to Pilacan.

The boy tried to save his sister but the wild animal dragged her to the deep portion of the river, Pilacan said.

Residents and police, led by barangay councilor Alexander Aston, immediately launched search and rescue operations.

The rescue operations, however, turned futile as the residents found the head of the girl floating along the river.

She remains were buried on Thursday.

In the past, a child was also reported killed in Barangay River in Puerto Princesa City after being attacked by a crocodile.—Sophia P. Tesorio and Marlon Ramos, Inquirer Southern Luzon

NPA rebs pose as cops in attack on outpost

COTABATO CITY—COMMUNIST guerrillas raided an army detachment inside the Nituan peace zone in Tulunan, North Cotabato on Thursday and took off with 22 assorted firearms from surprised government forces, numbering some 20.

The rebels withdrew to the hinterlands of the town, which borders Davao del Sur, without harming anybody.

Lt. Col. Julius Ando, spokesperson of the Army's 6th Infantry Division based in Maguindanao, said the Tulunan police detachment was attacked by some 20 rebels.

Villanueva said they passed by some people carrying the army backpack and uniform of Maggie Nonoh Cotabato and seized 20 firearms from the station's armory.

The rebels, all wearing civilian attire, went to the police station on the pretext of surrendering a crime suspect.

The raid in Tulunan came barely nine days after the military claimed the strength of the NPA has steadily declined because of the government's anti-insurgency campaign.

Dominion Maranggal-Arroyo has recently released 91 billion for the war on communist guerrillas.

NPA guerrillas continued to attack military installations and base facilities even as they are paying revolutionary taxes.

The 7,000-strong 39th, which broke off from Kumagilan-backed peace talks in August 2004, also continue to carry out its brand of justice against those involved in anti-communist activities.

On Monday night, NPA assassins killed two people, including a town councilor, at Balingasag in Misamis Oriental. They were suspected of being government spies. —Joseffy Mabrouc, Edwin Fernandez with reports from Grace Garcia-Alfonsi and Elda Aguirre, Inquirer Mindanao

MEMBERS of the Special Action Force of the Philippine National Police get ready for deployment in the counterinsurgency campaign.

Fisherman seeks help in finding son's body

BASI, PANGASINAN—"PLEASE look for my son."

This was the plea of a fisherman whose son jumped from their fishing boat after their days of getting lost at sea at the height of supertyphoon "Paeng."

Rivaldo Barrera, 46, said his son Ryan, 22, could no longer bear the chaos and hunger on the night of Oct. 31, and told him "Ubasan na ako (I'll go ahead)."

"We tried to dissuade him, telling him that we would be saved, but when we were not looking, he went ahead and jumped," Barrera said in a phone interview.

He and his brother Rolando were at the office of Basi Mayor Gabriel Navarro after their rescue on Wednesday.

"If he just waited for another day, he would have been saved, too," Barrera said.

The Barrera brothers said they were no longer hopeful that Ryan is still alive, but they asked authorities to rescue his body.

The brothers and Ryan left Cabarambirao village in Sabtang, Batanes on Oct. 28 to go fishing in the South China Sea.

Barrera said they knew about the coming typhoon but that they were confident that they could return home on Sunday or before the typhoon arrived.

But on Sunday morning, high waves triggered their fishing boat and they drifted in the sea.

On Tuesday night, Ryan could not bear it anymore and decided to jump off the boat, Barrera said.

The following day, two fishermen found the body from Ryan and Chong Cacis, rescued the brothers.

They were brought to the office of Navarro who helped them ask assistance from the authorities and gave them money to go back to Subic.

In San Fernando City in La Union, 15 people were rescued on Tuesday by a team of the military and the police from a stricken cargo vessel that drifted to the sea some 72 km northeast of Dagupan, Donna Nieto, at the height of the typhoon.—Rolando Bolodo-Fuertes, Peter Lo Jellino and Fernando Cobico, Inquirer Northern Luzon

INQUIRER Visayas

Edna Jan Bandayrel
Bureau Chief Edralyn L. Benedicto

Community spirit builds public school

RESIDENTS of Sitio Boga and teachers of Bonghanguan I Elementary School stand on a hill with the dilapidated school building, which is a 1.5-km walk over rice fields, streams, hills, bamboo thickets and a very difficult road.

By Hazel P Villa
Iloilo bureau, Antique

EVERY DAY, FOR 20 DAYS and some nights in rainy June 2002, 30 to 50 men, women and children trudged up and down steep inclines and rice fields, crossed streams and a river carrying sacks of cement, hollow blocks, steel bars, wood and other construction materials.

Expedito Ibajes, 37, and his 13-year-old grandchild Jessica Ibajes headed and dragged construction materials for 1.5 km from the source of Barangay Bonghanguan 1 to Sitio Boga. They were putting up the barrio's first-ever one-classroom school building.

In the site reserving 1.7 ha of land donated by Miguel, Vicente and Gaudencio Ibajes, the women cooked and washed stories about their children who would start going to school if it would be finished in July.

As the oldest and the youngest practitioners of Ibanjat's degree, or the traditional bayanihan system of helping each other without pay or other forms of remuneration, the two Ibajeses and other residents kept at it until the Boga El-ementary School came to life as scheduled.

It was just about time, as the river had already swollen again and the streams more difficult for the children to cross, considering that this was the easiest route. If they passed the other mountainous path, their elders legs should be strong enough to lift them through 45-degree rises and relatively bad roads that are not even a motorcycle or the most hardy carabao could negotiate.

"Isang halimaw ang sanda ing panyero-kuway tuan—para man sa nacauhan ang sanan (They have one voice and they relate to each other like relatives—doing good for everyone)," said Jan Ibajes, teacher in charge of the Bonghanguan I Elementary School where several generations of Boga children used to be enrolled.

The materials for the new school building came from President Macapagal-Arroyo's special fund for school-less communities, screened through follow-up efforts of Ibajeses Mayor Erik J. Lotilla.

Save the Children

Ibajes, who also oversees affairs at the Boga elementary school, is all praises for the community spirit as the project rises not just a matter of days or nights.

Finally, the one-room building was able to accommodate Grades 1 and 2 classes with a total of 38 pupils. The following school year 2003-04, Grades 3 and 4 classes were held in the chapel and in 2005-06, the unidentified house of Ernesto Salve became the learning room of Grades 5 and 6 pupils.

While the natives were looking for support to construct another school building, plus possible water supply facilities and toilets for their increasing school population, the international nongovernment group Save the Children Federation Inc. (SC) was looking for disadvantaged communities that it could assist in 2003.

The SC is a leading nonprofit humanitarian relief and development organization working in more than 48 countries throughout the developing world and in the United States. It operates in "making lasting positive change in the lives of children around."

In the Philippines, the SC has been active for 24 years.

Through a partnership with the SC, Boga residents acquired materials from its supporters, the Cebu Group of Australia, for its two-classroom building. The Cebu Group is a global leader in face-to-face marketing of consumer and business products. It is active in 23 countries and positioned about promoting the welfare of children and the underprivileged.

Twelve other public elementary schools, which are SC partners, in the Antique towns of Ibajeses and San Remigio are beneficiaries of the group.

'Degrow'

Construction of Boga's new school building began in May and was scheduled to be finished middle of July.

The same degrow system: nine men, women and children working on shifts, traversing the same difficult route, carrying construction materials.

As it was in 2002, the community of 330-plus people could not afford for carabaos and tractors to help haul anything, or else they might have a school finished up with excess rice or crops.

The residents decided to work by shifts. There were some men who carried the materials at night when it wasn't so hot and that was the only time they could help since they owned during the day in the fields or hauled after their catch, and council member Antonio Salve Jr. translated, the murder language.

CONTINUED P. A-2

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION
SEC MEMORANDUM CIRCULAR NO. 72
Series of 2006

ADOPTION OF NEW AND REVISED PHILIPPINE STANDARDS ON AUDITING, REVIEW ENGAGEMENTS, ASSURANCE ENGAGEMENTS, QUALITY CONTROL, AND PHILIPPINE AUDITING PRACTICE STATEMENTS

No.	Title	Effective Date
Philippine Standards for Auditing (PSA)		
PSA 240 (Revised)	Quality control for audits of historical financial information	Audits of financial information for periods beginning on or after June 15, 2006
PSA 250 (Revised)	Audit Documentation	Audits of financial information for periods beginning on or after June 15, 2006
PSA 260 (Revised)	The Auditor's Responsibility to Consider Fraud in an Audit of Financial Statements	Audits of financial statements for periods beginning on or after June 15, 2006
PSA 700 (Revised)	The Independent Auditor's Report on a Complete Set of General Purpose Financial Statements (including amendments to PSA 200, PSA 210, PSA 560, PSA 701 and PSA 800)	Reports dated on or after November 15, 2006
Philippine Standards on Review Engagements (PSRE)		
PSRE 2410	Review of Interim Financial Information Performed by the Independent Auditor of the Entity	Reviews of financial information for periods beginning on or after June 15, 2006
Philippine Standards on Assurance Engagements (PSAE)		
PSAE 3000 (Revised)	Assurance Engagements Other than Audits or Reviews of Historical Financial Information	Reports dated on or after January 1, 2006
Philippine Standards on Quality Control (PSQC)		
PSQC 1	Quality Control for Firms that Perform Audits and Reviews of Historical Financial Information, and Other Assurance and Related Services Engagements	Quality control procedures should be established by June 15, 2006
Philippine Auditing Practice Statements (PAPS)		
PAPS 1014	Reporting by Auditors on Compliance with International Financial Reporting Standards	Reports dated on or after June 15, 2006

Copies of the above new and revised standards are available at the offices of the Philippine Institutes of Certified Public Accountants (PICPA).

This Memorandum shall take effect fifteen (15) days following its publication in two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Issued this 30th day of October 2006 at EDSA, Greenhills, Mandaluyong City.

(Signature)
Chairperson

Beermen stretch win streak to 4

COCA-COLA'S Joseph 'Yeo (left) drives past Ali'Zi swingman Gary David in their game last night.

By Jane Manaem

DONDON HONTIVEROS KEYED SAN MIGUEL BEER'S FINAL push as the Beermen posted the longest streak in the conference with a hard-earned 87-79 victory over the Purefoods Giants in the PBA Philippine Cup last night at the Araneta Coliseum.

Taking over when Danny Seigle limped out with an injury, Hontiveros hurled a step-back three-pointer that sealed the rally of the ever-while rampaging Giants and paved the way for the Beermen's fourth straight win after a dismal 0-3 season opener.

Hontiveros's score to the basket and dumped off Junior Ilgo before unloading the triple that gave the Beermen a comfortable 82-75 spread with barely a minute remaining.

A free throw by Jun Limpot put the Giants closer, 77-80, but Jeff Anne Simon and Ilgo flubbed desperation triples to allow the Beermen to seal the victory with Hontiveros as the other end.

"We're slowly getting the right chemistry for this season," said San Miguel Beer coach Dan Reyes. "I just hope that we continue to be healthy."

The question of health, however, will depend on the findings on Seigle, who had his right ankle late in the fourth period.

Seigle fell on the wrong foot after squeezing past his defender, forcing the San Miguel coaching staff to hustle him into the rest of the match.

"I hope it's nothing serious," said Reyes.

In the first game, Gary David tallied 27 points in an almost no-color job and helped the Tigresse topple Sta Coca-Cola Tigers, 113-103.

Rookie Jewel Santos and Peyton Schmidt also sparkled and with the Tri Trumpet brothers, Reinhold and Yancy, cooling it over in the paint, the Tigresse chalked up their third victory after seven games.

"I may known the responsibility of shooting the game to another level since the loss of Ronald Allen," said Ariel Vanguardia after squeezing out his 12th win in 13 games.

Late Sports

More stories on A23 to 24

MBT 110—Ilgo 27, De Ocampo 20, Santos 16, De Ocampo 12, Yeo 11, Arboleda 5, Tolfo 5, Custodio 3, Ni 3, Dimaunahan 2, Acuncio 2

COCA-COLA 103—Arroyo 23, Pascual 19, Yu 18, Tiamzon 9, Panlaan 8, Miranda 8, Quinagoran 6, Mendoza 5, Acuncio 4, Santos 0, Antonio 0

Quarters: 25-24, 47-49, 80-75, 113-103.

Second Game

SAN MIGUEL 87—Seigle 19, Hontiveros 11, Simon 9, Custodio 12, Cruz 8, Villanueva 7, Belano 6, Quinagoran 5, Arboleda 4, Vidal 4, Quilan 0

PUREFOODS 79—Limpot 18, Tiu 9, Ei. Simon 10, Ingu 1, Ei. Pingris 5, Enriquez 6, Lanuza 0, Ei. Arboleda 0, Castillo 0,

Quarters: 22-16, 42-35, 64-51, 87-79

Realtors eye best all-Pinoy start ever

JAMES YOUNG's Tee Jam Collumn
4:30 p.m.—Tee Lanier, Bernard
4:50 p.m.—Joel Bolt vs. Val Whit

FAIRWAYS IS NOW CONVINCED that Mrs. Lucia is for real.

The Realtors final themselves two up even when they never used to be, leading the Philippine Basketball Association Philippine Cup with a 3-1 (wins-loss) record.

It shouldn't be too tough trying to keep hold of the lead.

The Realtors today are the Alkisan leagues, a bunch of marbles who are for dangerous one night and greatly disoriented the next, to a doubleheader today at the New San Juan Coliseum.

Sta. Lucia's 5-1 record is the team's best in an All-Filipino conference since 1998, when the Realtors also went 5-1.

Playing against Shibuan could help better that record. The young Dragons are currently stuck at 2-5, worst the bottom.

In the second game, Joel Bolt takes on Bill Til Bird, looking for its second win in three games since trading Lenly Tagada to San Miguel for a three-way trade.

Francis Lalisa

INQUIRER Visayas

COUNCILMAN Antonio Sajor points to Sixto Baga just above freshly-dilled rice fields in Barangay Bongbongan, Sibalom, Antique.

Bleak future for children of Guimaras oil spill victims

By Nestor P. Burgos Jr.
Jordan, Guimaras

THE ELDEST OF SEVEN siblings, 15-year-old Jelly Gaviola had dreams of finishing school, finding a job and helping her siblings finish their education.

But like many children of Nueva Valencia town, Jelly has to confront the painful reality that his dreams may no longer be possible, after a massive oil spill destroyed their family and destroyed their livelihood.

Jelly's family has been staying at the Colegio Elementary School after they were forced to evacuate their home in Sitio Guimaras in the island-village of Cutamon.

The island's coastline was contaminated with toxic fumes from the bunker fuel that spilled out from the sunken tanker Solar 1. The villager's groundwater was also unsafe for drinking.

When interviewed by a media agency team that was conducting an assessment on the impact of the oil spill, Jelly broke down and said her father had told her that she and her 11-year-old sister Joslyn would not be able to continue going to school next year because of financial difficulties.

The two children are among those severely hit by the oil spill that has created a huge impact on families of fisherfolk and shell gatherers.

Absences

A 126-page rapid assessment report released on Dec. 20 by the provincial government noted the increasing incidence of absenteeism among school aficionados of children and illnesses associated with the oil spill.

School attendance in August significantly dropped in schools in Nueva Valencia except in San Lorenzo National High School. School attendance in Cabalagnan National High School, situated in the barangay hardest hit by the oil spill, was the lowest in the province, the report said.

Attendance in public elementary schools is now also dropping in August. Pamaldeon Mid-dle-Grade School had the least attendance with 73 persons.

MITTAGE of going to school, children have been forced to drop out and play around after the oil spill.

The report noted that more female students were absent (18 percent) than male students (9 percent) in Cabalagnan National High School.

The assessment team attributed the decrease in attendance to students working in the clean up operations and those tasked by parents to take care of younger siblings while their parents work in the cleanup.

The absences could also be a result of the lack of allowance for transportation and food because of a drop in income of the fisherfolk. Children also suffered sickness, which may be related to the oil spill, forcing them to miss classes.

Fisherfolk have turned to harvesting farm products and working in the clean-up operations of Petron from which they earn P500 to P700 per day for an average of three work days per week. This is below their daily earnings of P700 to P1,000 when they were still fishing. Some residents were looking for jobs in neighboring provinces and in Iloilo City, the report said.

The classes of children have also been disrupted because some classrooms transformed to temporary classrooms because schools have been used as evacuation centers.

The evacuees told the assessment team that they found it difficult to live in evacuation centers because they had to adjust to new environments and have lost their privacy because of the presence of reporters who frequented the area.

They said relief assistance has not been enough even as children who could not afford to bring lunch in school were provided with supplemental feeding.

The United Nations's Children's Fund has provided vans, school packs and food assistance to the evacuees, especially children and women.

Dignity

The assessment team recommended the identification of a permanent relocation site for the families if required.

It said evacuation centers should be provided with adequate basic services such as potable water, sanitary toilet facilities, areas for economic and social activities as well as other amenities that will maintain the privacy and dignity of the evacuees.

Psycho-social and spiritual interventions should also be implemented among the affected families and feeding programs for preschoolers should be sustained because of the parents' inability to provide food to their children who go to school, the team recommended.

PUPILS from Tanza Elementary school hold their classes in a chapel or under a tent after bunker fuel from MT Solar 1 were dumped near their school in Barangay Tanza, Nueva Valencia, Guimaras.

Community spirit ...

From page A14

Jalpa, 49, a carpenter who had experience in construction work in Manila, oversees the building of materials and the building process in 2002 and 2006.

By this time, teachers-in-charge Mesia had enrolled 91 pupils from preparatory school all the way to Grade 6 for school year 2006-07.

Mesia, 43, a native of nearby Barangay Villas in Sibalom and with extensive community work and teaching experiences, could not believe how the classroom got things done.

"We should have seen how they involved the mill for one week using an improvised bulldozer pulled by three carabaos. In many people were helping and the innovative approaches were almost unbelievable," he said.

"There are innovations to cope with the shortage of classrooms and the lack of a room for school overwhelmers and when the residents called the "Bahal Bukling."

Stage

Thirty-spliced bamboos closely joined together serve as walls of two elevated classrooms. Where this "bahal" was detached and stuck together at the back of the "classroom," the elevated area automatically becomes a stage for pupils and parents to receive honors and recognition.

In February, also with support from the SC, the people brought in more building materials and constructed a four-door toilet with washing facilities and an elevated water tank at the school.

The blessing ceremonies for the latest installations was marked by elegance, attended SC program coordinator Nora Adandeol, kinds of the 45 households donated a chicken and other food for the celebration.

Baga, as the SC friend out, says one upland community very much ready to accept change.

The group trained community reading volunteers (CRVs) to help slow readers and nonreaders, and barangay officials to assist them in planning. It also held parent education sessions.

Every Saturday since June, Cleto's family helper and brother Darcia would gather 27 slow readers and nonreaders and teach them how to read.

"I learned how to deal with kids, how to motivate and discipline them. I saw home the mistakes I have made as a parent because I was told at the training about the right things we should do and wrong things to avoid," said Norita, who has seven children.

Training

Pupils underwent leadership training while their two teachers participated in skills upgrading seminars supported by the SC.

Since 2005, the group has provided children deworming drugs and Vitamin A and iron supplements, and facilitated their dental and medical treatment in collaboration with the Department of Education, local government health service providers, and the Antique Dental Society.

It also provided breakfasts for a daily supplemental feeding program from July to September to serve improve school attendance.

Inspired by the successes of Bagtas, Tapotbon Satay, president of the Parents-Teachers Association, dreams of more for his community.

"The roads are terrible. What we need at this point is to deeply have them repaired and if possible, build three bridges (10-12 m.) over the river and four culverts for the two streams," said Japotbon, 37.

The residents said they had heard news that Rep. Exequiel Javier of the lone district of Antique pledged financial support to construct a farm-to-market road in their area, but they had yet to see him deliver the promise.

Simply waiting for dreams and promises to come true is something they are not very good at. Experience and the degree have shown them that God really helps those who help themselves.

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DAHIL SMART TAYO

Aplus METRO
Editor Boner C. Dipasupil

TV producer found dead in QC home

Body of ABS-CBN reality show executive bore several stab wounds

THE BODY of male television producer Jennifer Sierra (inset) is wheeled out of his apartment in Horizon Hills, Quezon City

By DJ Yap and Bayani San Diego Jr.

AN EXECUTIVE PRODUCER FOR the television network ABS-CBN was found dead inside his home in Quezon City yesterday morning, apparently after being stabbed by unidentified assailants.

Jennifer "Jed" Sierra, 36, was discovered sprawled on a bed inside his apartment at 77 Jose Abad Santos St., Horizon Hill by his family's maid, according to police.

The executive producer of the "Pinoy Dream Academy" reality talent search show had several stab wounds and was already dead when Nida Corading found him at 9 a.m., investigators said.

The TV producer sustained stab wounds in the back, left shoulder area and knee, said PO2 Ferdinal Bilyong of the Quezon City Police District's criminal investigation division. Corading was quoted in radio interviews as saying that she had borrowed the keys to Sierra's house from his landlord to retrieve the towels.

Two unidentified persons were reportedly seen arriving with Sierra at his apartment earlier, but Bilyong refused to confirm this, saying an investigation was still ongoing. The manner for the killing had not yet been established, he added.

According to a source who had visited the crime scene, Sierra appeared to have been hacked to death. "I could not bear to see him that way. But I was told that Jed's arm was almost lopped off. We found the police are still looking for the murder weapon," the source added.

"He didn't deserve to die this way," said fellow executive producer Monster Tolentino Gonzales. "He was a fun-loving person who always smiled and laugh so laugh."

"Everybody's shocked," PDA director Leonardo Dong) added. "He was a very organized worker who was in charge of the show's gala nights. He loved putting musical numbers together, and untold details of everything, including the costumes."

TV PRODUCER, A-2

'Dirty water caused death of 2 kids'

By Nancy C. Carvajal

TWO KIDS OF TWO CHILDREN in Caloocan City were found to contaminated water.

City Health Officer Vicente Belmonte said yesterday dirty water caused the stomach aches and vomiting spells the children experienced since Friday.

Ten others, including two infants and a 30-year-old mother, were also brought to various hospitals. All of the victims lived on Bonifacio Street, Administration Site, Tala.

Dr. Edgar Antillon, director of Dist. Jose Rodriguez Hospital, where most of the victims were brought, said the patients had diarrhea and severe dehydration.

Rosario said 10 more people in the area also got sick.

Rod Rafonazan Tamayo, a relative of the victims, said dirty water could not be the reason. "They get water from us and we were not infected," she said.

Despite the health officer's report, Mayor Enrico Echavez will order an investigation on the alleged food poisoning cases.

Binay foe claims Sandigan bribed

By Jocelyn R. Uy

MAKATI MAYOR JEJOMAR BINAY ALLEGEDLY bribed three Sandiganbayan justices to junk the P60-million graft charge against him.

The mayor's political rival, Reborn Asistio, a former vice mayor, claimed yesterday that Justices Godofredo Legaspi, Efren dela Cruz and Norberto Geraldez, upon clearing "railroading" over the 918 million cash each supposedly received from Binay, instead of studying the documents supporting the graft charge against the mayor filed in 2003.

Reliance, in his complaint before the Office of the Ombudsman, alleged that Binay and several other city officials purchased overpriced furniture and fixings for the new City Hall from 1999 to 2001.

Contacted for comment, Binay said he would file libel charges against Reliance and the Sandiganbayan to vindicate himself.

"We are not surprised by his latest statement, this time maligning the justices of the Sandiganbayan. Predictably, he has thrown yet another tantrum because of his latest court defeats," Binay's counsel, Emmanuel Vargas, said in a statement.

Reliance said three "reliable" sources—two from the Sandiganbayan and one from the Office of the Mayor—informed him the payoff took place between Oct. 27, when the case was raffled off to the anti-graft court, and Oct. 28.

The Third Division of the Sandiganbayan junked the complaint Oct. 30 for lack of probable cause. It said the complaint failed to show that Binay, his supposed complainants in the city government and private respondents committed graft.

"The [resolution] is tainted with enormous fear the Sandiganbayan Third Division is highly anomalous, irregular, legally flawed and immoral," Reliance told reporters yesterday.

He said the Commission on Audit report showing the supposed anomalous transaction provided me just probable cause but proved beyond doubt that Binay and his accomplices looted the city of millions worth of furniture and rigged the bidding to award the contract to favored suppliers.

"Did the justices have enough time during the [weekend] to review and evaluate the information and the voluminous attachments, including the COA audit report, to arrive at a just resolution?" he asked.

Reliance said he would file with the Supreme Court administrative and criminal cases against the three justices and Justice Dimaalade Bondoc of the First Division, who allegedly lobbied for the dismissal of the case.

He said he would also ask for the suspension and disbarment of the justices, whom he called "scoundrels in robes," for alleged grave abuse of power, discretion and immoral conduct.

But Reliance has been convicted for libel twice after claiming in a radio program that justices were in Binay's payroll. The high court affirmed one of the convictions last year.

Jose Salgado, chief of the Makati Information and Communications Department, said Reliance's latest move was part of the administration's "damage control" tactics after it suffered major legal setbacks.

TAKING CARE OF 'ECONOMY'
Malaban Zoo serves Pinoy Tongue gives "Economy," a 2-week-old tiger cub, a bottle of milk at feeding time. The cub's parents were named Tiger Gloria and Tiger Erap by the imaginative Tongs.n.

Muslim center to rise in Quiapo

By Tina G. Santos and Margaux C. Ortiz

THE FILIPINO-MUSLIM ECONOMIC and Socio-cultural Center will soon rise in Quiapo, Manila, according to the city government.

The center will include a mosque and commercial complex for souvenir shops, restaurants and offices.

It would also have a four-story walk-up apartment unit, a building which could be used for a school for Koran, and Mayor Lito Atienza.

A joint project of the city government, Land Bank of the Philippines (LBP) and Land Bank Realty Development Corp., the center will be constructed on a 1.8-hectare lot on Tayuman-Nilmon Streets in Quiapo.

Manila Muslim Peace and Development Council official Zena Ameril Cohan-Ambolong said they welcomed the city government's effort to put up the center.

Ambolong said Muslim communities looked forward to the convention of two barangays in Quiapo into a "Muslim Town."

The barangays include the streets of Globe de Oro, Arlegui, Evelan and Elizondo, he said.

He said Muslims had played a big part in the city's history and heritage. Its first "mayor," Rajah Sulaiman, was a Muslim.

Saving grace

ON TARGET
Ramon Tulfo

THE INCIDENT AT THE NINOY Aquino International Airport (NAIA) involving an immigration officer and Evangeline Lourdes "Lulu" Arroyo was a saving grace for the Arroyo family.

Lulu gained spite the immigration counter where she could ask an advantage of the courtesy of the post an feeble her manner as the daughter of the President.

But she did not, that's why we were able to know the shabby treatment ordinary Pinoys suffer in the hands of arrogant immigration officers.

Lulu's losing up at the immigration counter was not for show. It was in her character.

Five years her arrived times in public places, such as the defunct Botanical Ota and Nuva restaurant, and she was very inconspicuous. She stayed at a corner with close friends. Her bodyguards were hardly noticeable.

Louie Yuntad, owner of Mancia and Nuva, is all praises for her.

"She goes around the Makati nightlife circuit, but you hardly notice her. She's very humble," said Yuntad of Lulu.

Now, if she became very conspicuous at the Naia by confronting the immigration officer, it was because she stood up for the rights of the small people.

The public should understand her righteous indignation.

Even Jesus Christ got mad and started whipping people when he saw the desecration of His father's temple.

* * *

The National Bureau of Investigation's report to Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez recommending the filing of "Planecrave" despite being apprised of the possibility of a stampede by the organizers themselves.

The mayor was also aware that the expected crowd, according to the report, could not be accommodated in the Ultra which has a seating capacity of only 17,000.

"He [Gatchalian] should have revoked the permit [because] he had knowledge on the early meeting of Feb. 6, 2006 that a stampede was inevitable," said the report.

If we will recall, Mayor Echiverri also hit the headlines when he ordered the demolition of the infamous "shabu tenggo" a few meters from the Pasig City Hall. The demolition destroyed the celebrity that was cited for the filing of charges against the operators of the illegal establishment.

charges against executives of television network ABS-CBN and a security agency for the Ultra tragedy curiously never materialized when it was on the last page of the report.

The existing page recommended that the Department of local Government and Community Development (DILG) take appropriate administrative action against Pasig City Mayor Vicente Echeverri.

The report cited the mayor's lack of foresight by issuing the permit for the first anniversary

Ad exec's slay baffles Mandaluyong police

By Edson C. Tandoc Jr.

POLICE ARE PUZZLED BY THE death of a 33-year-old advertising officer who was strangled with a pillow case in her condominium unit in Mandaluyong City.

City police chief Supt. Teresa Velasquez told the reporters there were no signs of forcible entry at the second floor of Lumina Mansion in Barangay Highway Hills; nor were there signs of a struggle.

Investigators suspect the victim, Donnabel Tabuzzo, 33, an account vice president for media of BEES Advertising, knew her attacker.

Tabuzzo's effeminates were married when she did not expect for work the other day. She did not call or send a message nor did she reply to their calls and messages.

"That was unusual," one of her effeminates told the reporters, thereafter among a group of concerned friends to go to her unit.

As they entered her unit with the help of a building employee, they saw Tabuzzo slumped on the floor, a pillow case around her neck. She was only wearing a blue underwear, where she was found, police said.

Velasquez said they were ruling out robbery because there appeared to be no missing valuables

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METROBRIEFS

Probe on prisoner's escape

THE TAGUIG City government yesterday created a task force to look into the escape of a notorious murder and robbery suspect after a court hearing in Pasig City on Monday. Mayor Freddie Tinga ordered Police Senior Inspector Wilfredo Vitug, as head of the task force that would investigate the escape of Ernesto Jesus after he was allegedly allowed to make a home visit. City administrator Angel Cortez Enriquez said Vitug's case of reliability in the custody of prisoners against All Abdurahim Faisan Pasahi. On the other hand, the jail guard filed a case against Ernesto Jesus' wife who allegedly drugged him inside the couple's house, giving the suspect an opportunity to escape. — Jocelyn R. Uy

HMTQCC liturgical concert

THE HMI, Mary the Queen Children's Choir of the Immaculate Conception Cathedral of the Diocese of Cubao in Quezon City is holding a concert of sacred music at 5 p.m. tomorrow at the Philamlife Auditorium, UN Avenue in Manila. The choir won the champion's medal at the 2004 Choir Olympics in Bremen, Germany. Tickets are available at the Philamlife Auditorium lobby. For more information, call 414-6882 or 09157-610-8383.

TV producer . . .

From page A-17

Dyogi recalled that Ilarino, who had been working at ABS-CBN for the past 11 years, would feel the PDA crew about their "antitrons" for the weekly galas. "We usually come to wearing shirts of the same color. But for tomorrow's show, he told us to wear shirts emblazoned with the faces of our idols," Dyogi expressed.

Lately, however, the victim appeared more subdued than usual. "The family was supposed to mark the 40th day of the elder Ilarino's death tomorrow (Saturday)," said Dyogi.

The last time they saw Ilarino was when they attended the wake of a slain Ilarino before his body was found. "I think it was the first time all four executive producers were present," Dyogi recalled. "They all left the 'Big Brother' house at the same time," Dyogi added.

But since Joel's car was parked at the ABS-CBN Broadcasting Center, he had to separate from one another and say goodbye," Gonzales said.

The WORLD

Editor Lawrence B. Quirico

How to make A-bomb on US website

RED SQUARE PARADE
Russian soldiers march during a rehearsal of a parade on Red Square in Moscow, marking the 65th anniversary of the Nov. 7 military parade on Red Square when soldiers were directly to the front during World War II. AFP

LAST MARCH, THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT set up a website to make public a vast archive of Iraqi documents captured during the war.

The Bush administration did so under pressure from congressional Republicans who said they hoped to "leverage the Internet" to find new evidence of the prewar dangers posed by Saddam Hussein.

But in recent weeks, the site has posted some documents that weapons experts say present a danger themselves: detailed accounts of Iraq's secret nuclear research before the 1991 Persian Gulf War. The documents, the experts say, constitute a basic guide to building nuclear weapons.

On Thursday night, the government shut down the website after The New York Times asked about complaints from weapons experts and nine-armed officials. A spokesperson for the director of national intelligence said access to the site had been suspended "pending a review to ensure its content is appropriate for public viewing."

Officials of the International Atomic Energy Agency, fearing that the information could help nations like Iran develop nuclear arms, had privately protested last week to the US ambassador to the agency, according to European diplomats who spoke on condition of anonymity because of the issue's sensitivity. One diplomat said the agency's technical experts "were shocked" at the public disclosures.

The documents, roughly a dozen in number, contain charts, diagrams, equations and lengthy narratives about bomb-building that the nuclear experts say go beyond what is available elsewhere on the Internet and is useful to public forums. For instance, the papers give detailed information on how to build nuclear firing circuits and triggering explosives, as well as the radioactive cores of atom bombs.

The government had received earlier warnings about the contents of the website. Last spring, after the site began posting old Iraqi documents about chemical weapons, US arms-control officials in New York won the withdrawal of a report that gave information on how to make ricin and cumin, nerve agents that kill by causing respiratory failure.

The campaign for the online archive was mounted by conservative publications and politicians, who argued that the nation's spy agencies had failed adequately to analyze the 48,000 boxes of documents seized in Iraq since the March 2003 invasion began. With the public increasingly skeptical about the rationale and conduct of the war, the chairs of the House and Senate Intelligence committees set the administration that while analysis and translation of the documents—most of them in Arabic—would interrogate the search for evidence that Saddam had weapons of mass destruction, it was progressing in the years before the invasion.

US search teams never found such evidence in Iraq.

The director of national intelligence, John D. Negroponte, had resigned establishing the archive, which some intelligence officials felt implicitly raised questions about the competence and judgment of government analysts. But President Bush approved the site's creation after congressional Republicans proposed legislation to force the documents' release. AFP

Report: Half of US runways lack safety zone

WASHINGTON—MORE THAN half of US commercial airports don't have a 1,000-foot (300-meter) margin at the end of a runway, as overruns are the federal government says is needed as a safety zone, a new report says.

Some of the busiest airports in the US — including Los Angeles International Airport, Chicago's O'Hare International Airport and Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport — have more than one runway that does not meet safety standards, according to statistics supplied by the Federal Aviation Administration.

"Our runways are out of shape, and the Bush administration has failed to move to correct the problem," Senator Frank Lautenberg, a Democrat, said Thursday. "If we don't get serious about runway problems, the result could be disastrous."

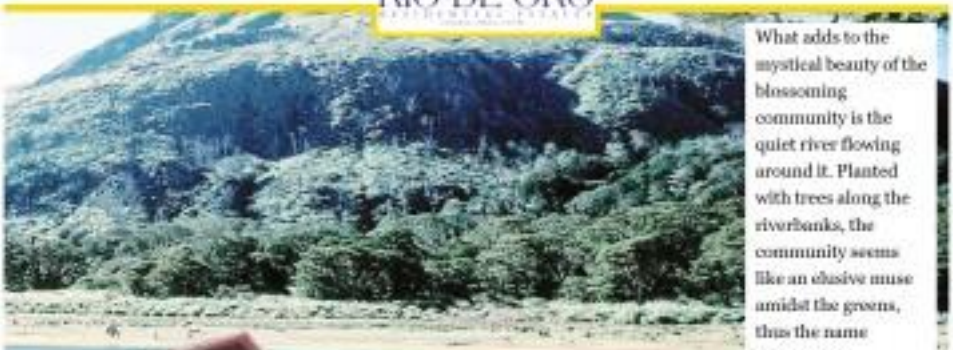
The FAA says it is diligently upgrading the runways. The agency expects that all of them will meet the standard by 2015, when they are legally required to do so, according to FAA spokeswoman Laura Brown.

Today, 70 percent of commercial service runways have a runway safety area within 90 percent of the standard, Brown said. She said 226 runways were improved as of Sept. 21.

At 223 airports — more than half of the 373 commercial airports in the United States — at least one runway lacks the 1,000-foot (300-meter) safety zone, according to the FAA's own figures. Almost half of all commercial runways — 307 of 1,017 — do not meet the safety standard.

Deadly airplane crashes can happen on runways because they are too short, improperly lit, poorly designed or lack safety equipment. A

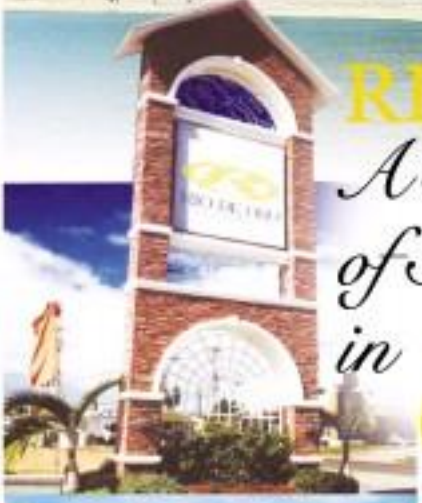
RIO DE ORO



What adds to the mystical beauty of the blossoming community is the quiet river flowing around it. Planted with trees along the riverbanks, the community seems like an elusive muse amidst the greens, thus the name Rio de Oro

RIO DE ORO

A Spanish village of Sta. Lucia Realty in Cavite



Every weary worker, student or businessman would want to come home to a neighborhood where they can peacefully rest every night.

CAVITE IS A HISTORICAL AND CULTURAL PLACE. ITS PICTURESQUE landscape with vegetation and blossoming locals make it an ideal neighborhood to settle in. Being the gateway to the metropolis, Cavite is just an hour drive away that's why majority of its residents are families working, studying and attending to businesses either in Manila or Makati.

Aside from the strategic location of the place, Cavite is a beautiful neighborhood that embodies the characteristics of both the old and new worlds. The rustic appeal is evident because of the cultural traditions and customs that are diligently observed in the area, while, Cavite's accessibility to the city and the influx of modern technology makes it a new world.

Sta. Lucia Realty developed their Cavite communities to be like this - a community where families would enjoy both worlds experience family values and bring alternate with the latest in modern technology in city life.

One of the developer's communities in Cavite is Rio de Oro, a modern Spanish village sprawling on 19 hectares of prime real estate property. Patterned after old Spanish settlements in the country before, the village looks and feels like another place and time in the middle of Cavite.

"We designed the place to really look like a Spanish village. We will build cobble-covered roads and install old lampposts to reproduce a Spanish village. We even frame homeowners in Rio de Oro being time-warped every time they come home as after a hard day of work or school. It's a time out of a lifetime trip; we want to give future Rio de Oro property owners," said Emmanuel Robles, president and CEO of Sta. Lucia Realty Development, Inc.

A trademark of any Sta. Lucia Realty development, Rio de Oro will also be a gated, protected neighborhood to live in.

"Every weary worker, student or businessman would want to come home to a neighborhood where they can peacefully rest every night. The residential estate will soon be manifested into some popular option for families because it feels like being secluded from the rest of the world where you are just a few minutes away from the commercial hubs and establishments," continues Robles.

What adds to the mystical beauty of the blossoming community is the quiet river flowing around it. Planted with trees along the riverbanks, the community seems like an elusive muse amidst the greens, thus the name Rio de Oro.

The development is a master-planned community intended for small to medium families who aims to take a chance in building their own homes. It is located along Tirona Highway, Brgy. Paliparan III, Dasmariñas, Cavite, near Governor's Drive, and minutes away from numerous retail businesses, service and other important establishments.

"Rio is an affordable community because you are sold in smaller size unlike the other property developments. We believe that every family deserves of owning their own homes and through projects like ours, we are helping them achieve their dreams," said Rinaldo Robles, president of Royale Homes Marketing Corporation, the exclusive marketing arm of Rio de Oro.

Aside from families, the village is also intended for returning OFWs who are investing for their first own house, retirees who want to spend retirement days in an environment that is safe and quiet and employees of neighboring EPZAs.

The location of the community has access to several resort and leisure locations, as well as the Sugno golf community in the area. But inside the community are amenities that will keep its villagers healthy and active. The clubhouse that includes a resort, tennis/badminton court and swimming pool. The nature lovers who prefer open spaces, landscaped parks and children's playgrounds are provided for picnics, strolling, biking and jogging.

Lots are available in 75 sqm to 150 sqm size and are ideal for building low income to single detached homes at very affordable monthly amortization rates. Owning a property in Rio de Oro is made easier through the Super Value Home Loan program of Rizal's de Oro.

This property is another joint venture project of Sta. Lucia Realty Development, Inc. and Banco de Oro - Universal Bank.

For more information, please call Royale Homes Marketing Corporation at 723-4814, 729-4288, 726-4295 or log on to www.royalehomes.com.ph

SPORTS
Editor Teodoro S. Mekinduz

'Get Bata' cry echoes as World Pool starts

By Mayong R. Castillo

THE FORMAL LAUNCH FOR today's 2006 World Pool Championship followed a perfectly laid-out script yesterday until Rilla Manansala, the winner in 2003, based here he planned to wreck a perfect ending perfected by Ibe Bautista.

Mellaren were in their best behavior, the emcee did a great job and loud, feel-good music accompanied the introduction and entrance of some of the globe's greatest pool players.

Then Ianuzzero, the "Ice Man" who talked coldly as he could, announced his main goal: cheering Efren "Bata" Reyes, premier 8? bet.

"The biggest thing (to win in this event) is the moral championship," Ianuzzero told a packed ballroom at the Philippine Plaza yesterday. "And what better way to do it than beat Efren ("Bata" Reyes), the greatest player that ever lived!"

Ianuzzero, a Hun, was among a handful of big guns presented to the media, together with defending champion Ko Chao-ching of Taiwan, Gaetano Thoreau Robinsang, Brazil's Rodney Morris and the brightest hopes for a local revival — Django Bustamante, Alex Pagulayan and Reyes, the second seed.

"I guess I broke a lot of hearts in entering two tournaments in the Philippines against Filipinos) before," Ianuzzero said. "I want to do it again. The dream (of mine) is to beat (Efren) in the finals."

It was actually Ianuzzero who talked well of his chances—or his performance—with the others electing to play it safe as the $400,000 (around P20 million) event featuring 128 players from 41 countries blasts off at the PICC at noon today.

"My prediction is for Django to win this event," said the fourth-seeded Pagulayan, the 2004 winner in Taipei who provided a bit of color to a relief to the proceedings. "I dreamt of that, because he will give me half of his winnings. I wish everyone the best of luck, unless when they're playing me."

The top-ranked Wu, the 17-year-old phenom who had 60 pounds more wrestling him year, said the crack field will be difficult to handle, but the same sentiment echoed by Bustamante and Ianuzzero, the former world No. 1 who won the losing finalist in 2003.

"I was so close then," Bustamante said in Filipino. "I just did not get the breaks I needed. Now we got 2 Filipino contingents are prepared and we will do whatever it takes to win."

A total of 21 Filipinos will be vying action in the main draw, which will mainly the top-64 players in the first four days before the knockout phases.

The field will be divided into 32 groups made up of four players each who will play six matches.

The side-by event gives $40,000 to the runner-up, $20,000 to the losing semifinalists and $10,000 to the quarterfinalists.

There will be a total of 21 Filipinos in the field, a new record that eclipsed the previous high of 19 set by the Taiwanese two years ago.

Powerhouse United States will be represented by Johnny Archer, the 1986 ranked player in the world, Joel Strickland and 12th-seeded Rodney Morris.

Undoubtedly pay outside also (It would be a shame if I lose)," Reyes said. "The pressure is on, a huge, especially on me. And I am not accustomed of winning. Luck should be on my side for me to win."

Mike Ianuzzero, the Pinoy who won this event in 2000, was the first to throw the gauntlet, saying that, in order for a win in Manila to be truly sweet, it should be against no less than the 1999 champion Reyes.

"I really think that I will have a very difficult time winning," Reyes said. "There are a lot of good players in the field, especially the young lions, represent."

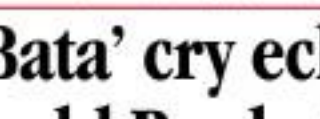


PHOTO left Rico Reyes, Alex Pagulayan, Django Bustamante.

Reyes pressured to pocket crown

By Mayong R. Castillo

OTHER THAN THE HOSTING advantages, playing before your countrymen has a lot of downsides.

Ask Efren "Bata" Reyes.

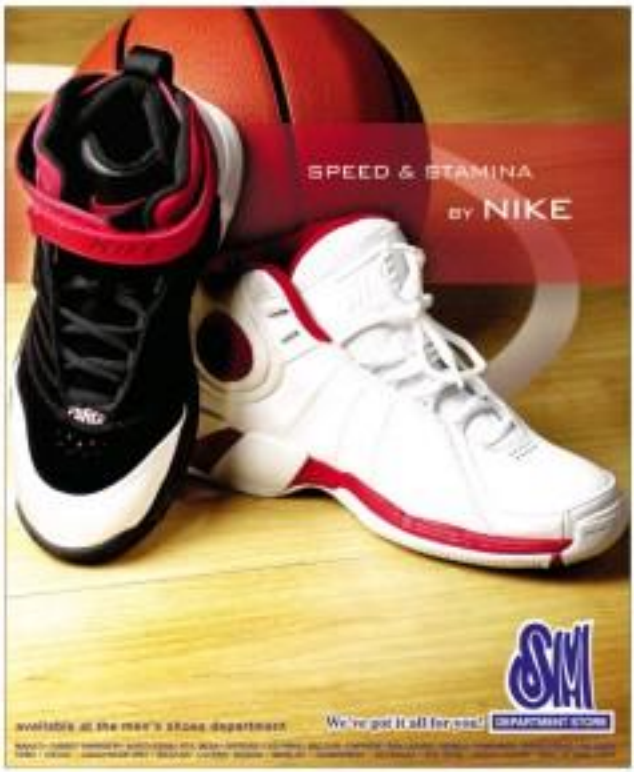
"I can feel the pressure this early actually, even way before the tournament," Reyes said in Filipino yesterday, the eve of the 2006 World Pool Championship's opening at the Philippine International Convention Center.

Not only is "The Magician" presumed to win in front of his country men, the entire foreign field, it seems, is gunning for only one 58-year-old—his.

"There is tremendous pressure because of the strong Filipino contingent," Taiwanese reigning titlist Ko Chia-ching, 60 pounds lighter, said through an interpreter. "I will do my best and hope to meet Mr. Reyes in the finals."

David tackles American in World Jr meet

DAVID



Archers break long hiatus, battle Knights

LA SALLE BRINGS IT TOMORROW: Lim-ans archers it taken out Letran today at the start of the 2006 Holiday 10 Intercollegiate Invitational Cup at the Philsports.

The Archers, suspended for one year in the UAAP will make their grand comeback via the fifth collegiate league this season outside the traditional NCAA and UAAP super seven.

Powered by four lentlisers from the 2005 squad, La Salle will battle NCAA 2005 champ Letran at 1 p.m. event as this year's NCAA titlist San Beda tangles with UAAP runners-up Ateneo as also opener at 2 p.m.

UAAP champ University of Santo Tomas looks home with San Sebastian in the last game at 6 p.m.

Tyrone Tang, Wahido Hilmawan, Rio Manabat and Ji Gun will spearhead the Archers' coming-out party even as the Knights parade a decimated team in the absence of newly turned pro Rupit Bandoa and Isaac Sabido.

La Salle also gets to break in newcomers like 6-foot-7 Marlo Intrinsic and guard Simon Adiao who are expected to spice up the archers game.

Juan Flavier, the NCAA Rookie-MVP awardee, will lead the Red Lions against the Knights who will try to regain pride after yielding to UST in the UAAP final.

Meanwhile, the Tigers will also try to make up for their first round loss in the Coca-Cola Juniors' Championship League where they fell to host Rizal University.

With Jojo Daniel, Jerry Dan and Dylan Medina in tow, UST will be in full force against the Maags, who will try to score an upset here after getting 'booted' out of the NCAA Final Four.

The meet is coming on the heels of the Fr. Martin Cup second conference, UAAP-NCAA Interim Inter-Islander, Champions League and Dan Gaisano rebids, all had the UAAP and NCAA big dons in a merry mix up for prestige.

Fr. Martin Cup champion for Eastern University will see action on Nov. 15 taking with Champions League titlist University of the East. — Mary Anthony Reyes

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Health
CENTRAL OFFICE BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE
[illegible]

Invitation to Apply for Eligibility and to Bid

Republic of the Philippines

PROCUREMENT OF MOTOR VEHICLES (REBID)
IAEB NO. 2006-11-21 (30)

1. The Department of Health (DOH) through the Central Office Bids and Awards Committee (CO-BAC) intends to procure motor vehicles for the use of the DOH Central Office and its attached agencies through competitive bidding.
2. The DOH now invites bids from eligible suppliers for the procurement of motor vehicles as per the following schedule: [illegible]
3. Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures as specified in R.A. 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR), using non-discretionary "pass/fail" criteria.
4. Bidding is open to all suppliers, manufacturers, distributors and dealers of motor vehicles from the Philippines, and to citizens or organizations of a country the laws or regulations of which grant similar rights to Filipino citizens and organizations to participate in procurement activities in that country, subject to the provisions of Section 5 of R.A. 9184 and its IRR. Prospective bidders must be duly licensed by the Philippine Contractors Accreditation Board (PCAB) to engage in the business as a supplier, manufacturer, distributor or dealer in the line of business for which they intend to bid.
5. The DOH will only short-list bidders who have been determined to have the financial capability to undertake the supply contract. [illegible]
6. Interested bidders may obtain further information from the address stating at or before 10:00 a.m. of the bidder shall submit a non-refundable fee of Five Thousand Pesos (P5,000.00) to cover the cost of bidding documents and request a set from which to submit a bid.

Total LOCAL Quantity	Minimum Amount to be Appropriated Budget for the Contract for the Item for which Bid is Submitted
Local Certificate Issued / Quantity Awarded to Local Bidder	Total Local Bid Price
Total Foreign Quantity	Total Amount Appropriated (Col. 1 Only)

7. Bid opening shall be on 29 November 2006, 10:00 a.m. at the address below. Bids will be opened in the presence of the bidders' representatives who choose to attend.
8. The DOH reserves the right to accept or reject any bid or to annul the bidding process, and to accept the lowest bid or highest evaluated bid, without incurring any liability to the affected bidder or bidders.

Central Office Bids and Awards Committee
Ground Floor, Building 2
Department of Health
San Lazaro Compound, Rizal Ave. Manila
Telefax: 743-1623 / 711-9501 local 2514
E-mail address: bac_co@doh.gov.ph / bac_co@yahoo.com

(sgd.) ELIZABETH S. ANGELA
Undersecretary of Health and
Chairman, Central Office
Bids and Awards Committee
DOH-BAC

DOH-CO-2-2006

Sy, Peña start chasing Winslow in AF3 today

ROSARIO, BATANGAS.—ATTACK WITH OUT-SIDE. This will be Team Sy's strategy when the 10th round of the Asian Formula Three circuit is held at the Batangas Racing Circuit here today.

The 19-year-old Sy of Speedtech Asia, is considered main leader James Winslow will need any collision to protect his huge lead in the overall standings and overall title in the Honda-driven race.

Another Filipino, Dale Peña, also got a second look from all sides when he registered the fastest lap in the third practice rounds on Friday morning, as the race series is final weekend.

Peña, of Team Goddard, clocked one minute and 28.696 seconds under heavy conditions while he was second fastest at 1:28.774. The duo gave the foreign field a taste of what is to come as the country's best riders expressed their determined bid in challenging any foreign attempt to house tail.

Former series leader till inclusion of Ireland, however, stayed close, clocking 1:28.752 while Indonesian Alfonso Anggono logged in at 1:28.755. Series leader James Winslow checked in at 1:28.758.

The Promotion class also saw Filipino Michelle Bangayan shocking to attend at 1:30.704, the win followed by Philip Freeman of Sweden (1:30.906) and Malaysia-based Ben Gunn of Great Britain (1:31.005).

While Peña was giving up hope of further improving his times, Sy, of Speedtech Asia, is also fast on his turn chaser of the overall title.

The results of Race 3 of Indonesia last September will be the grid positions for Race 13 that was canceled when Sangeppo figured in a nasty accident.

The reason Sy, who finished second in Race 14, will start alongside Winslow, with Jackson of Ireland from fourth in third and teammate Dillon Battisti behind.

Completing the starting grid are Indian Santo and Bagnot Hermanto of BMW Team Indonesia James Go, Gaby de la Merced of Speedtech Asia, Michelle Bangayan of Team Goddard, Marcus and Peña.

The rest of the drivers here—Macanese Lei Kit Meng; and Chinese Charles Hallings of Team Goddard, Swede Philip Herman of Speedtech Asia and Inanday Gildore Grabmueller of Fujitsu Racing with Christiand A. Wonogiri—will see action later Saturday during the qualifying race for Round 16.

Winslow, who has 215 points built around five wins in Indonesia, remained confident he could beat the opposition. "Speed's starting just behind me and I'm sure he's gonna push hard. But I know my car's really good. I'm really confident. I go for the win from pole," he said.

Jackson struggled in the morning practice session, posting just the seventh fastest time. Running on new tires in the afternoon session, he came up with the best time but his injured right hand is still a big question mark some race time.

Peña topped the morning session despite using old tires and set his sights on a top five finish in Round 15 although he will start from the back.

"It's sorry, tonight, to overtake from six to top five finish would be fine. In the qualifying session for the next race, we will definitely fight for pole position. We should be in the front row," said Peña, who has 62 points, good for ninth overall.

Sy, who has been fine-tuning his ride on that he used in finishing runner-up slides to Winslow in Indonesia, said they are still looking for the perfect set-up.

"We're getting there, making us, front long and tuning to Dale. James is also there, Sabo did morning tests."

TYSON: Sy sets second fastest time in the morning practice session

Republic of the Philippines
SOCIAL SECURITY SYSTEM
East Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City
Tel. Nos. (632) 920-6401 • (632) 920-6446
E-mail address, website and e-gov.ph • Web site: http://www.sss.gov.ph

NOTICE

Please get in touch with the Members Assistance Center, Social Security System (SSS), East Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City, or at any SSS office nearest your place of residence and file your death benefit claim within 30 days upon publication, if you are:

NAME OF MEMBER/DECEASED	DATE/PLACE OF DEATH/BIRTH	NAME OF LEGAL BENEFICIARY	DATE OF BIRTH
1. Wilfredo Diaz	Unknown	Jessie Diaz (Wife) [illegible]	May 4, 1956
2. Lucio Perez	Unknown	Rosita Hernandez Perez (Wife) [illegible]	June 9, 1956
3. Armando Cortez Rosario	Unknown	Rosalinda Hernandez Jr. (Wife) [illegible]	January 6, 1956
4. Manuel Diaz (Member) [illegible] [illegible] and Anna Cruz	Sto. Tomas, Cavite	Rosie Mendoza (Wife) [illegible]	July 31, 1957
5. Constancio Cabang	Unknown	Jorge Cabang [illegible]	June 15, 1951
6. Cipriano Cabagnay	Sta Cruz, Leyte, Cebu [illegible]	Ruth Cruz Cabagnay [illegible]	June 14, 1956
7. Rosalinda Nunez Lorenzo Nunez	Mandaluyong City	Lorenzo Nunez (Husband) [illegible]	July 5, 1956
8. Tomas Tolentino	Unknown	Lolita Nunez Perez (Wife) [illegible]	July 7, 1956
9. Alfonso Ramos (Driver)	Caloocan, Manila	Constancia Ramos [illegible]	October 21, 1956
10. Ferdinand Fernandez	Unknown	Rosalinda Fernandez [illegible]	September 5, 1956
11. Felix Cortez	Alfonso, Cavite	[illegible]	June 3, 1956
12. Alfredo Gutierrez, Rolando M. Agbayani, Cebu [illegible]	Unknown	Rogelio Gutierrez [illegible]	December 10, 1956
13. Lolito Pineda	Unknown, Tarlac	Fernando M. Bautista [illegible]	August 23, 1956
14. Alfonso Lopez (Member) [illegible]	Tanay, Rizal	Rogelio Lopez [illegible]	June 16, 1957
15. [illegible] Alcala	[illegible]	Florentino Bautista [illegible]	September 1, 1956
16. Antonio G. Alcantara	10 Sitio Cebu, Tanay, Rizal	Epifanio Alcantara [illegible]	June 16, 1956
17. Nicolas Hernandez and Nicolas P. Miranda	San Antonio	Rosalinda Miranda [illegible]	September 8, 1956
18. Wilfredo Diaz	Unknown	Perla M. Diaz [illegible]	November 13, 1956
19. Maximino Mendoza [illegible] [illegible]	Unknown	Conrado Mendoza [illegible]	January 1, 1956
20. Marcelo Gutierrez [illegible]	Unknown	Rolando Perez [illegible]	August 31, 1956
21. Virgilio Cabrera [illegible]	8111 Bonifacio St. Sampaloc, Manila	Virginia Cabrera [illegible]	December 24, 1956
22. Cipriano Perez	Lipa, Batangas	Rosalinda Bautista [illegible]	December 24, 1956
23. Marcelino Perez [illegible] [illegible]	Cebu	Raymundo Ramos [illegible] [illegible]	December 24, 1956
24. [illegible] [illegible]	10 San Antonio, De Zona, Sta. Rita Sta. Rita Pampanga City	Miguel Ramos [illegible]	March 8, 1956
25. Alfonso Gonzales	[illegible]	Fernando Gonzales [illegible] [illegible]	May 15, 1956
26. Antonio V. Gonzales	7 Mahogany St., Tandang Cebu	Victoria G. Gonzales [illegible] [illegible]	June 2, 1956
27. Lolito P. Tolentino	Bagumbayan, Montalban, Rizal	Margarita N. Tolentino [illegible] [illegible]	April 7, 1956
28. Fernando Cortez	Unknown	Concepcion G. Ramos [illegible] [illegible]	December 13, 1956
29. Alejandro Ng Cortez Jr.	28 Pinatubo Road, Cebu [illegible] [illegible]	Joseph Tung [illegible] [illegible]	August 11, 1956
30. Cipriano Bautista Jr.	Cebu	Rosalinda Bautista [illegible] [illegible]	July 4, 1956

—Nothing Follows—

Pascua smells victory, tells ma to buy shoes

By Leoncio Bellin Jr.
Inquirer Northern Luzon

CANDON CITY—IT MAY HAVE struck her family as a surprise but when 12-year-old Ruby Pascua asked her mother to buy her a pair of shoes before she left this house last city last month to compete in the 2nd Manila Youth Games.

She was, after all, an athlete who dare to mind-fame because of her penchant for competing in track and field competitions barefoot.

That was until the young girl sought to used the matter out.

Pascua, a trainee of the Tamarang El-ementary School here, said she would not need the shoes in the track competitions but for what she preferred would be her inclusion in the coveted competitions.

She was right on the dot with her prediction.

Pascua, who ran, jumped and hurled barefoot, came home with three gold medals, four silvers and a bronze and was honored as the most outstanding athlete in the games.

She also received a P10,000 incentive and a scholarship offer from Manila Sports Council Chair Ali Atienza.

The girl won the gold in the 100-meter-dash, 4x100m and 4x400-meter relay. She also bagged silver medals for the high jump, 50-meter dash, 4 x 100 and 4 x 400-relays while she salvaged a bronze in the 200-meter dash.

Pascua said she was more comfortable competing barefoot. "It was just OK. I knew I had a good chance," she said.

Her lack of confidence was built up by the experience she gained from various competitions. She was part of the team that won the 4 x 100 team relay gold in last year's MYG.

Pascua also grabbed four golds and a silver in this year's Mila Lindo Olympics staged in Lingayen, Pangasinan.

And the shoes she had her mother purchase?

The kid's only regret now that she wasn't able to wear the new pair, which she had said to reserve for some special day after the event and wasn't around for the awarding ceremonies.

Jolet Ma. Ylla Pascua

Jolet seeks sweep

PEDALING TO JOLET, a let can of blue-ed-ucation Ramonalet hopes to complete a perfect season as he goes to work on the PBR-titled Adriatico Boardriders Series San Miguel Coffee Fiber Racing Championship with another winning performance at the Batangas Racing Circuit here. Wrapping up the season-concluded meanchet a driving season to secure his fifth consecutive crown in this series conditioned by the National Motorcycle Sports and Safety Association. Another focus of the championship is the race battle between Benjo Mendoza of Speedoffice and Wesley of Rosario of Blaze for runner-up spot.

Candon's barefoot contessa of track

Percy D. Della

THAT A BRAHAMAN-BRED LASS GETS TO show up big city athletes her age is commonplace.

By do it barefooted though is another story—a damn good one.

Such gets for Rhodyn Pascua pulled that feat during All-Nimrods Manila Youth Games national invitational last week.

Her three gold medal finish to girls' meds while competing minus the boots or sneakers—footwear—are been sending to say the least. Coverage, as it applied to the barefoot dashes has the usual flow of the three legs—basketball, boxing and billiards strokes—a three of both ink.

***

Yet class another barangay star, Nueva Vizcaya's Carmelita Cardinoza won the 100-meter dash at the Pabayang Barkada in Cainta in 1995, had the sports media been mesmerized by a shoeless runner. Incidentally the 100 is Rhodyn's specialty.

Of course, Rhodyn's triumph in the century dash, long jump and baseball throw at the 887 invitational has become the source of locomotive pride in Candon City. I, too, have the import of sports development, despite the barrier of locals down in the barangays—including Candon's coastal Tamarang town—that Rhodyn and her kith and kin call home.

***

By happenstance, this writer and his wife live half of the year in Rhodyn's neck of the woods. It is not everyday that a commentary subject is right next door to your home.

I requested Candon's new sports hero to be giddy in a 12-year-old should he when I dropped by the Macasaa with barangay captain Rodrigo Ildefonso three days ago.

Instead, I saw a youngster with a serene demeanor. The Pascuas live in an unfinished two-bedroom nipa of utmost hollow blocks and galvanized iron. But it is a castle where a barefoot contessa lives in the midst of adoring "subjects"...coaches and classmates at Tamarang Elementary School, village elders and wide-eyed neighborhood tykes.

Rhodyn's sixth games, since the winsome lifestyle, was a snore run for the real life. Coy—the Ilocos Region Athletic Association meet next year. She hopes to train hard in the 100 and win it to represent the region in bigger track rangers to come.

***

COMMENTARY

Rhodyn, she tells her-self in high school next year and the possibility of a four-year athletic scholarship in college—where the bounty of Cordillera hardest is a thought facilitated by coaches.

Ms Pascua does not detract the standard issue track shoes. It's just that her winged feet prefer to feel the instant interwined at the globe in victory, whenever village sports leader Noel Idanan says.

Idanan is one wide leader Rhodyn must go the way of need but five siblings who needed records before her.

The barangay councilman sees the kids' athletic talent go to waste in high school due to lack of sports subsidy.

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PSC post speculative —Roquero

By Marc Anthony Reyes

CITING REFUSAL TO COMMENT BUT FORmer Philippine Sports Commissioner Ruy Elorde's name not surprising to board vigorous on his impending appointment as the agency's new chair or "speculative."

A guessing game pivoted around the Mail Memorial Sports Complex and Roquero, a former track runner in multiple talks also served as Director-General Secretary and board of governors' secretary finally talked to meditators after his name cropped up as one of the possible appointees of outgoing chair Smith Zamora.

"It's hard to even talk about it because at the time, the president is out of the country. Those [talks] are just speculations," said Roquero.

Sources inside the BSSC said Roquero had already conducted an ocular inspection of the complex last week, which fanned talks that he's about to assume the chairmanship.

A former sportsman, Roquero served as commissioner and executive director for the PSC in the early '90s under Apolinario Mejia.

Among the names floated, Roquero's was least around the BSSC. The name was mentioned along with that of Bb Mitoria, son of Manila Mayor Lito Atienza and chair of the Manila Sports Council.Atienza remained mum on his PSC candidacy.

WORLD FOLLY? Puerto Rican Karina Davis (right) spikes against Kazakhstan's Inna Matveyeva during their match at the Women's Volleyball World Championships in Rubs, Japan, Nov. 3. Puerto Rico won, 25-13, 23-35, 25-20, 25-13.

RP golfers tumble

ALFONSO BATHON SETTLED FOR a four-over par 76 and slid to fourth as members of the national pool floundered to the second round of the Hong Kong Amateur Open at Discovery Bay Golf Club's Ruby and Diamond courses in Hong Kong Thursday.

With a 147 total, Bathon, dropped six shots off Taiwanese Wu Wen-ting, who took charge with a 67 for a 141 aggregate. Australian Arnold Scott fired a 70 for a 142 while opening day leader Chan Shih-chi carded a 74 and slipped to third with a 144.

Zhenzel Abalo matched par 72 and climbed to joint 40th with 149 while Mike Alejandro and Gem Bandoc fumbled with 76 for 1-under and dropped to joint 110th. Anthony Fernandez and Jong Le put made 77s for 153 and 154, respectively.

MONITORING

Nat'l team loses winning formula

By Jun Nisnisro

ONE TESTED WINNING COMponent has been taken out from Team Philippines.

The Philippine Sports Commission has stopped the monitoring system which had done a lot to help guide Team Philippines to the overall victory in last year's Southeast Asian Games.

Unlike in the 2005 SEA Games hosted by the country, the PSC will no longer have an active participation in overseeing the day-to-day activities of the 229 national athletes who will see action in 31 disciplines in the Iloilo Island on Dec. 1-13.

The sorry wrapping of the travel system was the result of a PSC board resolution which was approved last month.

"For some reason, the board suddenly decided to detach the PSC from the monitoring of athletes," a reliable source told the tipsters. "The PSC used to watch over the athletes and address their concerns. Now, there is no way of knowing if the athletes and the coaches are really prepared for the SEA Games."

Aside from hurting the participation of the national team, the PSC used to look after the welfare of the athletes and coaches when Team Philippines captured its first SEAG overall title last year. The practice continued after the SEAG as the 80 delegation prepared for the Asiad but this was abruptly cut off last month.

In a step-gap measure, the Philippine Olympic Committee has tried to compose a monitoring body composed of sports officials and former athletes.

Former tennis chief Salvador Andrada was tasked to head the monitoring committee with national tennis coach Antonio Jose, Mike Thompson, Dino Bermudo of the athletes' commission and team liaison Jose Cabreza of Philippine Center for Sports Medicine as members.

"We'll start monitoring the athletes as soon as possible," said Andrada. "We'll coordinate with the coaches to know the progress of the athletes."

That move could prevent Team Philippines from winning second like a heartless chicken.

However, a PSC insider said the PSC's monitoring body wouldn't have its hands full and could not be expected to perform as efficiently as the scrapped body.

R-2 rules La Salle alumni cage meet

TEAM R-2 SHELLBLUE SCORED A first in the history of the La Salle Basketball League (LSBL) when they outlasted their third straight alumni championship at the La Salle Greenhills gym.

Drawing inspired performances from Ola Ilyas Cruz, 45, Jovi Tiozon, former NCAA player Timo Almeda and Sun Juan Mayor JV Jacinto, the Rubbermen whipped Bravo Alaska, 96-75, to underscore their dominance in the all-La Salle alumni league.

No room has ruled the Christian A championship for three straight years to stop the bouncing and leaping of the league to the '90s and R-2 made its first double appearance by completing a 3-0 game sweep.

Co-sponsored by Jacinto Cavite and managed by Mikee Romero, the Rubbers also got solid games from Sun Galarion, Jerwin Ignacio and Jessley Lagrosa.

Other members of the team headed by former DAW players Bella Dinglasan and Noah Arejola are RJ Nieves, Dito Ventura, Marvin Kapunan, Jose Medina and Jomie Silva.

"We're happy we're able to retain our title," said Romero. "It's a proud team of ours. We'll try our best to make it four in a row. But for sure, fellows will try to step up next year."

MEMBERS of the R-2 squad, including Harbour Centre owner Mikee Romero (standing, 4th from left), San Juan Mayor JV Ejercito (seated, 2nd from right), assistant coach Erick Arejola and coach Bella Dinglasan wait after receiving their championship trophy.

SPORTSWATCH

LGBA-Bakbakan eliens tadzy

THE 2006 NATIONAL SWIMMING CHALLENGE FOR SENIORS AT JUNIORS at noon today at San Juan Greenhills with 500 boy-swimmers lined up. Today's 13-discipline race featuring the participation of the Luzon Interscholastic Athletic Association (LISAA). Results qualified for the Palarong Pambansa are 200F medley and Mixed Prelim, Benjie Lee, Joseph Cruz, Bobbi Tabal and Jon Glenbrayagan; Lynde Perez and Jerwin Santos. For info, call 725-5000 and 725-6000, Mandaluyong. Meanwhile, the championship round of LISAA's Gymnastics Division of the Rizal meet will wrap up today at the Antipolo Coliseum via the capacity. - Jing delos

Backfight extravaganza at Religion

WELSON MEGA CONCEPT LAUNCHES THE UNDISPUTED CHAMPIONSHIP LIGHTweight title fight extravaganza tomorrow. What to Run Ti Ho Promotion Vice-Chairman Ricardo Cabrera announced. Billed as Run Ti Ho Presents Don Quixote Rubenito Acebuche Jr. vs. Rolando Navarrete, the fistfight will feature 10 three-minute rounds with the Filipino-Mexican Acebuche defending his World Boxing Association (WBA) featherweight crown against Navarrete. Also on the undercard are Rolando Navarrete Jr. vs. Jerry Tomogan, Jerry Tomogan vs. Jerry Tomogan, Jerry Tomogan vs. Jerry Tomogan, Jerry Tomogan

SPORTS

Spurs turn back Mavericks

PARKER: Spurred ankle

DALLAS—TIM DUNCAN TRADED A sluggish performance with a rebound and pullback with 10.4 seconds left, preserving a slim, late lead that the San Antonio Spurs parlayed into a 97-91 victory over the Dallas Mavericks on Thursday.

Whether it's the playoffs or the season opener, games between the Spurs and Mavericks are always filled with drama.

Dallas became the team to beat in the Idaho by outlasting the Spurs in a tense second-round playoff series that required a double-overtime of Game 7, then going on to reach the NBA finals, to its first game that seemed since losing the championship. Dallas played a similar game—hurling most of the way then snatching it slip away.

Dallas went scoreless for a 6:13 stretch that ended midway through the fourth quarter, letting a few-point lead turn into a five-point deficit. Despite 21 points from Dirk Nowitzki and 20 from Josh Howard, the Mavericks never recovered, although they were able to make things interesting down the stretch.

Tony Parker, who was questionable because of a sprained ankle, scored 19 points and Manu Ginobili had 16 for San Antonio. Duncan had 13 points and 10 rebounds, but made only five of 13 shots; he had only five point attempts through the third quarter and wasn't as involved as usual in the Spurs' scheme.

Clippers 96, Nuggets 95

At Los Angeles, Sam Cassell scored 20 points and made a pair of free throws with 12 seconds left to lift the Los Angeles Clippers to a victory in its home opener against Denver.

The Nuggets, playing their season opener without star Carmelo Anthony for most of the second half, also was ejected after shoving two technicals in a three-minute span early in the third quarter.

Cassell sank the free throws after his opponents in the backcourt argued with referee Joe Crawford's decision to call a foul on Nuggets guard Steve Blake.

Cassell sank the free throws after his opponents in the backcourt argued with referee Joe Crawford's decision to call a foul on Nuggets guard Steve Blake.

Maurice Cheeks had 21 points off the bench in his first game for the Clippers in Los Angeles, including three 3-pointers in the final 2:30.

Marcus Camby had 16 points and 18 rebounds for Denver, and Smith led the Nuggets with 21 points.

Los Angeles eliminated the Nuggets in the opening round of the playoffs last season, the first postseason series win for the Clippers franchise in 20 years. AP

SPURS forward Tim Duncan (right) takes a shot against Avaric Courtney of the Dallas Mavericks.

Next Yao to join 2007 NBA draft

BEIJING—CHINESE SUPERSTAR YI Jianlian, a 19-year-old rising star touted by many as the next Yao Ming, has received permission from his club to enter the 2007 NBA draft, state media said Friday.

Yi, who led the Guangdong Tigers to six straight national championships, was given the backing of his club to enter the draft, the China Daily reported.

The 2.1-meter (6-foot-11) Yi has attracted attention in basketball circles for several years and had been promoted as a 2006 draft prospect, but his club said he was too young and inexperienced.

"But now he is different, he is getting stronger mentally and physically. I think next year will be a big chance for him, so for us, it's time to let him go," Guangdong general manager Chen Hainan was quoted as saying.

"This is a great opportunity and also a test for me," said Yi, whose height and on-court moves have brought comparisons to 2.26-meter (7-foot-5) Houston Rockets center Yao.

Yi, who averaged 20.5 points and 9.6 rebounds last season, still needs the approval of the Chinese Basketball Association and an exemption from a CBA rule that CBA-issue players are not eligible for the NBA draft until they turn 22.

"We always support our players to joining high-quality overseas leagues," CBA vice president Shi Jiabi said, but added it was important for Yi to get a lot of playing time.

"If he is going to be stuck on the bench, it would be better if he stayed at home," Shi said. AP

Annika leads Mizuno

ABE, JAPAN—60MBA/KOREYSEM opened her bid for an LPGA Tour-record sixth straight Mizuno Classic title with a 3-under 71 on Friday leaving the Swedish star six strokes behind first-round leader Rachel Hetherington.

Coming off a six-stroke victory Sunday in the Ladies European Tour's Dubai Ladies Masters, Annika Sorenstam finished the par-3 12th in much 3 under, but bogeyed the next two holes and closed with three pars on the Radishiyama Country Club course.

Sorenstam won the tournament the last four years on the Japan Golf Course in Omu after taking the 2001 event in Miyazakigaoka.

Last year, Sorenstam became the first player in LPGA Tour history to win a tournament five straight times. AP

Poker tour resumes, listing on

THE PHILIPPINE POKER CHAMPION'S ALLIANCE (PCA) TOUR OF CHAMPIONSHIPS RESUMES WITH ITS 6TH leg of another satellite tournament today, 4:00 Tuesday to Tuesday (7th). Registration starts at 1 p.m. Winners of the event earn seats in the grand finals of the PhP 1 Million Pesos and two Philippine Championship bracelet last Dec. 10-11 at Casino Filipino Pavilion, Manila. The other scheduled tournaments are: Nov. 11 at Casino Filipino Cebu Waterfront, Nov. 18 at Casino Filipino Subic Waterfront, Zambales, 25 at El Prado Casino City. For details, call www.PhilippinePoker.com or call 815-4080 or 813-0133.

Republic of the Philippines
NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY
Regional Office VIII
Jaro, Tacloban City
Tel. No. (053) 321-2477 to 79/321-4144
Fax No. (053) 321-1329

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

Procurement of 2007 Trucking / Hauling Services
Project Reference No. 06-0908-063

The National Food Authority, through its Performance Bonded Warehouse, intends to apply the sum of PHP 500,000 (EIGHTY THOUSAND PESOS ONLY) (Php 1,580,000.00) being the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) to payments under the contract for 2007 Procurement of Trucking / Hauling Services. Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at the opening.

The National Food Authority, thru the Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), NFA Regional Office VIII, Tacloban City, now invites Bids from eligible bidders for the Procurement of Trucking / Hauling Services (Hauling Services for Operation 2007) as follows:

Lot No.	Source of Stocks	Destination	Estimated No. of Bpc Per Month	Required Number of Trucks / Trailers	Rate per Bag (Php 47.50/kg)	ABC	Required Delivery Period
1	Tacloban (Main) Tacloban City	100,000 bags	2 units of 4 wheeler / 10MT	1 unit	₱ 110,000	₱ 1 year
2	Ormoc, Leyte Town	100 Metro Manila, Cebu, Iloilo	50,000 bags	1 unit of 6 wheeler	₱ 0.00	₱ 550,000.00	₱ 1 year
			150,000 bags			₱ 1,650,000.00	

The determination of an eligible Bidder is contained in Section II of the Bidding Documents, the Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using Non-Discretionary pass/fail criteria as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations of Republic Act 9184, otherwise known as the Government Procurement Reform Act. Bidding is restricted to Philippine citizens/organizations and to associations or cooperatives duly registered with the Cooperative Development Authority and to individuals or joint ventures with at least sixty percent (60%) ownership interest of Philippine citizens as stipulated in Republic Act 8435 (R.A. 8435) and subject to provisions of the Philippine Foreign Investments Act of 1991 (R.A. 7042), as amended by Commonwealth Act 138 (C.A. 138). Only those local Bidders who meet the eligibility criteria will be allowed to participate in the bidding process in accordance with Section 23.1(b) of the IRR of R.A. 9184.

The Bidder with the Lowest Calculated Bid (LCB) shall submit to the post-qualification process in order to finally determine the compliance of the Bidder and the Bid with the requirements of the contract and shall then be declared as the Lowest Calculated Responsive Bid (LCRB). The contract shall then be awarded to the LCRB. Failure of the LCRB to enter into contract and post performance security within the prescribed time shall be a ground for the forfeiture of the bid security and the conduct of the post-qualification procedure.

Interested Bidders may obtain further information from the undersigned or BAC Vice Chairman Floro Tolin Jr. and review the Bidding Documents at the address given below from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM.

A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by interested Bidders from the said provincial offices/s of the NFA upon payment of a non-refundable fee for the Bidding Documents in the amount of Five Hundred Pesos (₱ 500.00) for lot 1 of the amount specified above starting November 09 to 22, 2006 from 8:00 A.M. to 4:00 PM. The Bidding Documents shall be issued personally by the prospective Bidder or his authorized representative.

It may also be downloaded free of charge from the website of the Philippine Government Electronic Procurement System (PhilGEPS) and the website of the procuring entity, provided that bidders shall pay the cost of the bidding documents not later than the submission of their bids.

Bids accompanied by a proposed bond to be released to the unsuccessful bidders on or before 12 noon on November 15, 2006, 9:00 AM at NFA Conference Room, NFA Regional Office VIII, NFA Compound, Tacloban City.

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Bid opening shall be on December 16, 2006, at exactly 2:00 PM at NFA Conference Room, NFA Regional Office VIII, NFA Compound, Tacloban City. Bids which are received in the premises of the Bidders' representatives who are allowed to attend at the address below.

The National Food Authority reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, to annul the bidding process and reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

(sgd.) SYLVIA B. SERO
BAC Chairman

BAC/BIDS: 07/06-AUTHORITY
Regional Office VIII
NFA Compound
Tacloban City
Tel. No. (053) 321-2477
Fax No. (053) 321-1329

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Stock market, peso continue to climb

Growth due to credit upgrade, easing of monetary policy

By Elizabeth L. Sanchez and Doris C. Dumlao

STOCKS SOARED TO A NEW NINE-YEAR HIGH, SUPPORTED BY A Moody's Investors Service rating upgrade and a slight easing in monetary policy, analysts said.

Also, the peso closed 40/50 against the US dollar, marking a new four-and-a-half-year high.

They said the Moody's upgrade had raised investor confidence in the economy, while the government's move to adopt a dating scheme—odd/even on a declared no-transport zone—would give banks the leeway they need to boost lending and boost growth.

Moody's raised the country's credit rating to stable from negative, indicating an improvement in the government's fiscal health.

"This decision by Moody's has further positive effect on bond prices," Bangko Sentral Governor Amando Tetangco Jr. said at the unveiling of a cop-

MORE, B2

(See stock market report on Page B2)

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Photos by Ray Tumaneng

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FLI plans to offer 6.2B shares

Proceeds to fund '07 capital expenditures, debt repayment

By Elizabeth L. Sanchez

LISTED PROPERTY FIRM FILINVEST LAND Inc. and its shareholders are planning to raise funds through an offering of up to 6.2 billion shares, worth about P20.7 billion, according to documents filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC).

FLI said the offer price would be based on the weighted average trading price of the shares on the PSE during a prescribed period, subject to a discount of up to 10 percent.

The proposed maximum offer price has been set at P3.72 a share, the documents showed.

FLI has filed an application with the SEC to register up to 6.2 billion shares, of which 5.7 billion will be new common shares for primary offering. There would also be up to 1.7 billion secondary or previously owned shares, and another 0.8 million new shares in over-allotment.

FLI said the bulk of the proceeds from the share offer would be used to finance the company's 2007 capital expenditures, set at P2.1 billion. Of the amount, P1.1 billion was for market for land development, P700 million for the construction of housing units, and the rest for land purchases and improvements on leased properties.

The company also intends to use portion of the funds to be raised from the offer in paying debt.

FLI said that on Oct. 27, it received the board's approval for the capital fundraising of up to 3.7 billion new shares.

The company is still studying the timing of the offering, it said in a statement to the Philippine Stock Exchange.

It has tapped UBS AG to act as financial advisor, sole global coordinator and bookrunner for the offer.

During a special stockholders' meeting on Oct. 27, FLI shareholders approved the increase in the company's authorized capital to 11 billion shares—.32 billion of which are common shares with a par value of P1. The remaining 8 billion were in the form of preferred shares, or those that get the first crack at corporate dividends. The preferred shares have a par value of P0.01.

Company shareholders also approved the declaration of a 25-percent stock dividend to be issued out of the increase in the authorized capital stock.

Last September, FLI acquired interests in PBCom Tower, Festival Supermall and Northgate Cyberzone. This substantially increased FLI's recurring income property portfolio and resulted in a well-balanced portfolio mix.

The company paid for the assets through a property for FLI shares swap and the assumption of certain debts of the vendors.

FLI, the residential property unit of the Tan Yan Kee-owned holding firm Filinvest Development Corp., said that sales reservations for the six months ending June reached P1.11 billion, 22 percent higher than year-ago level.

FLI is one of the largest real estate developers in the country with an asset base of P28 billion and stockholder's equity of P14 billion as of Dec. 31, 2005.

The Filinvest Group has been in residential and commercial development for over 30 years. As of June, the company has developed over 1,800 hectares of raw land into homes for close to 300,000 families, as well as 600,000 square meters of office or commercial and high-rise residential space.

Stock market, peso ...

From page B1

ted markets launch at the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) yesterday.

Stocks rose for the eleventh consecutive trading day by 45.00 points or 1.16 percent to 2,768.06, its highest after-closing at 2,810.34 on July 1, 1997, the Philippine Stock Exchange said.

The market's 11-day rally is the longest recorded in seven years since, from March 30 to April 20, 1999, the market surged for 13 straight days.

After trading between 49.82 and 49.47 to the dollar, the peso gained 12 centavos from Thursday's closing rate of 49.71 on the market channel, Bloomberg's estimated bi-month rating outlook.

The peso, Asia's strongest currency last year, has now appreciated by a further 6.4 percent since the start of this year. Yesterday volume turnover at the Philippine Dealing System amounted to $324.45 million.

Traders said the Moody's improved assessment would have catapulted the peso higher if not for the dampening impact of the timing scheme.

"The peso appreciated a little, but it wasn't substantial, because of the timing system which is, effectively, a monetary easing," said Jose Emmanuel Hilado, treasurer of BDO Private Bank and president of Investment Houses Association of the Philippines.

Tetangco said that the BSP would review its interest rate policy next month after adopting a timing scheme.

"We decided to adopt the timing system because ... the outlook on inflation is favorable," Tetangco said. "This is due to the recent easing of oil prices and the moderate outlook for agriculture, which should help keep food prices stable."

Under the tier scheme, the applicable rates for overnight borrowing are 7.50 percent for the first P5 billion, 8.50 percent for the next P5 billion, and 13.00 percent for the amount in excess of the first P10 billion, Tetangco said.

News of Moody's improved ratings outlook on the Philippines strengthened the foreign-funding of shares listed on the local stock exchange.

In yesterday's trade, the broader all-share index rose 24.96 points to 1,656.96.

Gainers led losers 53 to 41, with 54 stocks unchanged.

Where traded (132 million shares worth P1.31 billion ($82 million).

Top-traded: Metropolitan Bank Trust Co. rose 50 centavos to P48.

Philippine Long Distance Telephone, which will release quarterly results Tuesday, advanced P65 to P1,445.

Globe Telecom jumped P90 to P1,390.

Conglomerate Ayala Corp. gained P70 to P506. AFP

MWSS' P1.5-B bond float plan OKd

By Christine A. Gaylican

THE MONETARY BOARD (MB) has approved the proposal of Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System (MWSS) to raise P1.5 billion through a bond offering.

The proceeds from the bond offer will be used to finance the maturing obligations of all-peso concessionaire Maynilad Water Services Inc.

Land Bank of the Philippines has been appointed lead arranger and underwriter of the bond offering, said Marcia Cruz, MWSS deputy administrator.

"The proceeds from the offering will be used to pay for Maynilad's debts that are falling due within the year," Cruz said.

Emeliflor Bolisay of the MWSS finance department said the agency had also secured the approval of the Department of Finance to cover the bond offer with a sovereign guarantee.

The bond offering is scheduled for late or this month.

Since Maynilad defaulted in the payment of its concession fees beginning in March 2003, the government agency took over more than P19 billion in debts that are owed to multilateral agencies Asian Development Bank, Japan Bank for International Cooperation and the World Bank.

DISCLOSURES

ABOITIZ 1. Elizabeth Ann Sandoval has resigned as director and corporate secretary of Interbulk Capital Technology Ventures Inc. effective Oct. 31.

BENGUET CORP. has disclosed the disposal of 200,140,000 shares by director Andrew L. Tan in favor of Base Tuan Land Partners Inc. on Oct. 19.

A.G. and Holdings Inc. has announced the postponement of its annual stockholders' meeting originally set for Nov. 29. Compiled by Kate Pamela Aquino, Inquirer Research

Tighter monitoring of gov't spending urged

BIR, local gov'ts link databases

THE BUREAU OF INTERNAL Revenue will link its database electronically with those of the local governments' units to enhance the revenue agency's ability to detect and bill albeit businesses that evade paying national taxes.

Revenue assistant Commissioner Pio de Guia told reporters that the link-up with LGUs was part of the BIR's effort to tap information from several government units to help in business tax audits (updates).

He Ecela said the BIR would sign with the local governments of Quezon City whose implicit tax database would be electronically be connected with that of the revenue agency by December.

The arrangement is expected to boost the BIR's tax collection, especially since many businesses paying taxes to LGUs are supposed to be tax-registered under the BIR.

Revenue authorities said many businesses were more conscious of avoiding their tax obligations with the LGUs because they seem to be concerned officials could monitor their operations more closely.

Also, the BIR intends to tap the assistance of barangay captains to combat tax evasion among their constituents. Revenue authorities said the barangay captains had the advantage of knowing better the businesses operating in their areas.

The BIR recently launched the Tax Enhancement Means for Economic Stability (Trees) program which called for cooperation between the BIR and LGUs to boost tax collections.

Revenue authorities said the tie-up between the BIR and LGUs would also benefit the latter, as higher tax collection by the national government mean increased revenue allotment shares to the localities.

Under the National Internal Revenue Code (NIRC), 40 percent of the national government's revenue collection for a year should be set aside for LGUs. The law likewise states that 30 percent of the annual increase in value-added tax collection by a BIR's revenue region goes to the concerned LGUs. Michelle V. Rovee

Measure seeks to ensure fiscal targets will be met

By Michelle V. Rovee

FINANCE SECRETARY Jesus Purisima said he is not worried about the impact of the proposed measure requiring congressional approval for the release of funds for the government's unprogrammed spending.

Purisima said the measure, which is pending in the House of Representatives, would not affect the government's ability to meet its fiscal targets for the year.

"We are not worried about that. We are confident that we can meet our targets," Purisima said in a phone interview.

The measure, which was approved by the Senate on second reading last week, requires congressional approval for the release of funds for the government's unprogrammed spending.

Unprogrammed spending refers to funds that are not included in the budget but are released by the government when revenue collections exceed the target.

Purisima said the government is confident that it can meet its revenue target for the year.

"We are confident that we can meet our revenue target. We are confident that we can meet our deficit target," he said.

The government has set a revenue target of P470.5 billion for the year.

Purisima said the government is also confident that it can meet its deficit target of P146.1 billion for the year.

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YIVES

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Neda moves to curb delays in gov't projects

OFFICIALS OF THE NATIONAL ECONOMIC and Development Authority are set to meet with legal experts from the Supreme Court to discuss ways curbing the implementation of vital infrastructure projects.

The Neda is planning to get legal experts to participate in the planning of projects.

"There is a need to bring in the lawyers for their legal opinion during the planning process of any project. They should tell us what we can do, not what we cannot do, [and] economic logic should work together," Neda Director Jose Ronaldo Ortiz said in a statement.

Ortiz said the inputs from the legal experts should already be taken into consideration before the project were approved by the executive branch.

Potentiano B. Alawilla, director of the Neda's legal staff, said delays in the implementation of projects already approved by both the government and foreign creditors resulted in cost escalation.

Under the terms of official development assistance (ODA) provided by multilateral or bilateral institutions, the recipient government pays commitment fees for delays in ODA-funded projects.

Alawilla said the procurement law as it stands now is under the process implementation of government projects. The law, he claimed, "over-regulates" the process of procuring goods and services by a government agency to mitigate corruption, he added, were also in conflict with the procurement guidelines of foreign agencies providing the loans for infrastructure projects.

Other legal impediments to project implementation are issues on rights-of-way, land acquisition, and loan payments, he said. Michelle V. Rovee

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High-quality living at
Acropolis
Mandaluyong

With the very playful Nicole, this newly couple prefers a retail living space with lots of open areas to welcome a natural light and ventilation.

Dr. Nory and Teng Castillo, blessed with three adoring boys, own a big well-kept residence in Mandaluyong City. Having been exposed to the advantages of residing in Mandaluyong, the couple were in the look out for an exclusive and highly-secured living space within the same city.

"We have seen a number of villages and subdivisions for quite some time but none has conformed to our liking. Either they were exceptionally high-priced or were terribly distant from the city. We want a place that will meet our high-quality living checklist. We want a place that will free our family from unnecessary travel time. We want a place that will leave us from worrying about our unsafe surroundings," narrates Dr. Castillo.

A simple flyer tucked on their car's windshield led the couple to discover Acropolis Mandaluyong, a project that ideally sits at the center of the metropolis.

The couple only put their faith in the project's location and impressive masterplan. *"We were immediately charmed by the location of the place. The commercial and business hubs are just within reach. Further, Xavier School, where our two sons are currently enrolled, is only a few minutes away. And when we want to shop or see a movie, The Powerplant is just a convenient 10-minute drive from Acropolis Mandaluyong. It is indeed very refreshing to start and end your day within everything that you need and want are in close proximity,"* confesses Teng.

For Dr. Castillo, a successful eye surgeon who divides his working hours between his clinics in Cavite and UST, Acropolis Mandaluyong is very accessible. Their purchase in Acropolis Mandaluyong came just in time because he is going to open a new clinic in Megamall this November, making their future home's location more than ideal for him.

The 4.7-hectare posh residential estate also addresses another concern of Dr. Castillo - that his children grow in a safe and secured environment. *"When you sleep at night or when you go out of the country, you need not worry. A gated community, Acropolis Mandaluyong has security personnel to look after our home even if we vacation abroad for months."* The Castillos usual holidays and weekends are spent traveling abroad or swimming at almost all famed beach destinations in the country.

"And Ito, Lucia, being the developer of Acropolis Mandaluyong has already earned our trust. We are there as a credible developer who does not pack their bags and leave after they have developed the project. Actually, Mr. Exequiel Robles was a client before when he was still nursing up Sta. Lucia Mall," recalls Teng, a Public Relations Specialist.

If family safety and security are among your priorities on top of an ideal location, it will be best to check Acropolis Mandaluyong. Call 635-3044 or visit www.orchardproperty.com.ph.

"Nearby included in our home design is a garden because I love gardening. That's how I de-stress."

"Major considerations: Maker ang mall. There will be a clubhouse where our kids can play, especially our youngest son Nicolas who seems to be the most athletic in the family."

SCIENCE/HEALTH

E-mail sr_inquirer_health@inquirer.com.ph

Editor Cesar O. Mangosing

Text it to your healthwatch: Inquirer has opened up text messaging to 2327 (Globe) or 383 (Smart).

Pain specialists asking for 'just compensation'

By Tessa R. Salazar

WHAT IS SURGERY without anesthetic?

If you ask anesthesiologists Dr. Fidel C. Hayreal, it would be like going back 10,000 years in the Stone Age. Imagine your skull being drilled through and you were wide awake and there were no pain killers.

Taken for granted

Screaming in pain would still not quite capture the feeling.

Payment, past presidents of the Philippine Society of Anesthesiologists, lamented during a recent Philippine College of Physicians forum how the public tended to take the role of anesthesia and anesthesiologists for granted.

Dr. Gerardo A. Bayne, current PSA president, cited the importance of anesthesiologists or pain specialists to the operating room before, during and after an operation to manage and control patients' pain.

"The post anesthesia care unit improves the reputation care. The Post-recovery room is run by anesthesiologists, the residents anesthesiologists, and nurses trained to attend to postoperative management," he said.

Bayne also stressed that anesthesiologists are needed in operations on any part of a person... at any age. Indeed, anesthesiologists are needed in all invasive procedures at any age of the patient.

They are also essential across all fields of medical care. Dr. Flavio E. Bufalah, president of Society for Obstetric Anesthesiologists of the Philippines, feels herself constantly busy in obstetrics and during labor.

Precise science

Anesthesiology is such a precise science as well. Put in too much anesthesia, and the patient may never wake up. Put in too little, and the patient might wake up in the middle of the surgery—quite screaming to pain like he can get anxious.

For such reasons, anesthesiologists who attended the forum questioned the common practice of paying their fees at just a third of surgeons' fees.

Anesthesiologists at the forum have demanded the "8-percent" anomaly changed. In its stead, they suggest that patients should be charged according to the risks involved in putting each patient to sleep.

Anesthesiologists are now proposing Philhealth to base their fees on the relative unit value based on risk and procedures such as age, sex, medical condition of the patient, the type and duration of surgery, and the qualifications of the anesthesiologist involved (in terms of diplomate or non-diplomate).

Points system

Anesthesiologists also suggest that their fees should be based on a "points system" where the relative unit value is multiplied by the points, which would then correspond to the anesthesiologist's fee. A unit would be the monetary equivalent of 950.

Bayne added that accelerated agents are also involved in domains other than pain management, such as sedation and critical care, respiratory and advanced cardiac support.

Obviously, their compliments amount to terms of their fees.

"That's the reason anesthesiologists are better in control than other specialists. That's why everyone called them doctor."

Will the public be amenable to an increase in anesthesiologists' fees? Anesthesiologists themselves caution that patients will understand the need to show how truly important pain management and control is, and the men and women administering it. Indeed, the only thing worse than biting the bullet is the feeling the pang that goes with it.

The wonders of chess

TODAY, EVERYONE WANTS TO be ahead in the game. Parents enroll their children in fancy weekday-and-weekend classes hoping to give them an edge in school; businesspeople take management degrees and training seminars hoping to pad their resumes. While these efforts may be rewarded, somewhere what most of us lack are the simple things: creativity, perseverance and mental toughness. There are various ways of developing these traits, but one inexpensive (and fun) way is chess.

My friend John Ivy teaches third year geometry and advanced math for seniors (precalculus and calculus) in Xavier School. He has a master's degree in physics from Nebraska State University. John also loves chess, and in fact, he coaches elementary and high school chess aficionados. Here is what he has to say:

Simple solution

As a Xavier math teacher, I am constantly inspired to solve several puzzles: will I get to entertain their mom's academic excuses, I am then faring means for their first or second grade children. They need their toddlers to engender parenthoods. Sometimes these elderly come to enough. Their children continue to be unmotivated and as a math teacher, I see students who are unable or unwilling to think for themselves. So parents begin to wonder what they have to do. I propose a simple, black-and-white solution: have them play chess!

Chess is seen by many as a game only for the intelligent. A child who plays chess well is usually hailed as some sort of genius (having enjoyed chess for quite a few years and having a child who plays chess, I say that nothing can be further from the truth. Chess is a game for everyone. Its benefits can be experienced by all of us, but most especially those who are academically weak.

What chess teaches

Why? One, chess teaches focus. To play chess well, we need to shut out all outside distractions and learn solely on what is on the board in front of us. (I use mind wanders, as will our game.

EUREKA!

Vanessa N. Lee-Chua

Two, chess teaches problem solving skills. A chess game is one problem piled on top of another. Solve one dilemma and the next one comes right up. In chess, we solve problems by relying on geometric patterns of our own and our opponent's choosings. Pattern recognition is a critical weapon in our arsenal.

Chess also requires that we learn and apply theory. Much like science or math, chess does have its theories and underpinnings and a mastery of these principles is indispensable. The application of these theories requires higher order thinking skills—analysis, abstract reasoning, generalizing and finally, judgment. Upon analysis of a certain position, how do we judge our own position vis-à-vis our opponent's? What are our strengths and weaknesses? What about our opponent's? How can we capitalize on our strengths while attacking our opponent's weaknesses?

Three, chess teaches hard work. In the struggle for chess mastery, the face does not to the smart but to the persistent. Chess is ultimately fair because the more effort we put into it, the better the player we will be. If it were simply intelligence, then those with great IQs should have been world champions easily. But world champions, as we know, are few and far between.

Four, chess teaches an appreciation for art. Yes, chess is an art. Its use, nothing is as breathtaking as a beautiful queen sacrifice followed by a forced combination leading to mate 12 moves later. As we begin to explore chess more deeply we start to appreciate its inner beauty and long to create beauty in chess ourselves.

It's hard to believe all these can be gained by pushing black and white pieces around a checkered board. If chess is treated as just a game then yes, the benefits may be minimal. But if chess were taught properly and systematically then all the said benefits and more can be more within a few months.

In various countries such as Venezuela and Russia, chess is a part of the formal school curriculum. In the United States, many schools teach chess in the classroom, and many have it as an after school activity. It is truly thinking to hope that chess will become an academic requirement, complete with exams? Certainly, chess is less expensive and more enjoyable than remedial school!

Clear challenge

Another friend, psychologist Dr. Allen Tan, sent me a favorable Associated article published last July, which discusses how psychologists study chess grandmasters to validate theories of learning. The article's content is worth becoming feelings, but what I find to be most relevant to the fact there is an substance for hard work, even in chess.

"Motivation appears to be a more important factor than innate ability in the development of expertise," says writer Philip Ross. "It is no accident that in music, chess and sports—all domains in which expertise is defined by competitive performance rather than academic credentialing—professionals … has been emerging in ever younger ages, under the mistaken idea of increasingly dedicated parents and even schooled families. Don't express are made, not born. What is more, the demonstrated ability to store a child's quickly into an expert in chess, music and a host of other subjects…owes a clear challenge before the schools. Can educators find ways to encourage students to engage in the kind of effortful study that will improve their reading and math?"

* * *

This story by the most crucial question of all.

* * *

E-mail the author at bluefish@yahoo.com.

Did the 7 infants die in vain?

By Rafael B. Castillo, MD

EARLY LAST MONTH, 13 NEWBORN infants delivered at the Ritzi Medical Center (RMC) in Pasig City suffered from severe newborn infection called sepsis neonatorum or neonatal sepsis. Of the 13, seven died.

A fact-finding committee designated by the Department of Health absolved RMC officials of any neglect, reporting that the mothers of the infants were the source of the infection and not the sanitation of the delivery room, specifically the instruments used for the delivery. A mother-to-child infection bears a much higher chance of death than a hospital-acquired one which has a death rate of around 1 percent.

MEDICAL FILES

A big challenge

In fairness though to the doctors who handled the RMC cases, clinical evaluation in neonatal patients remains a big challenge even in the best of hands and the best of medical centers. There is still a relative "mystery novel" in their initiating between sick infants and healthy newborns, even with the aid of advanced laboratory tests.

Gave rates depending on standards of acceptable risk and availability of local resources. Pediatricians and other experts tasked to draft practice guidelines cautiously refine their clinical criteria for treatment by having a high index of suspicion and acting on the basis of the best available evidence, being consistency in risk assessment, and promptly consulting other experts when necessary.

An opportunity

Although legally, the RMC officials may already be absolved, this unfortunate incident should give them an opportunity to review their protocol and other practices in attending to both the mother and the infant. Fifteen cases of neonatal sepsis in the same period simply cannot be labeled as coincidental and beyond the control of the hospital.

The mere fact that the rate of neonatal sepsis and deaths in RMC has increased by more than 50 percent this year compared to last year should have served the red flag to the hospital officials for them to have done something already prior to this incident.

Even granting that 11 of the 13 infants in the RMC case had mothers who had clinical evidences of infection prior to delivery, medical science like RMC should be able to handle these maternal infections properly before delivery so as to minimize the transmission of the infections to their babies and subsequently minimize the risk to the newborn.

Risk factors

The infancy of mothers with infection are labeled as high risk for sepsis and should be given more than the standard care he infants who have no risk factors. Risk factors that have been shown to correlate with an increased incidence of neonatal sepsis include prolonged rupture of the bag of waters, maternal infections with group B streptococcus, pneumonia, cystitis, at birth, male gender, and maternal urinary tract infection.

Asymptomatic neonates with two of these risk factors should be observed closely even if the initial blood tests are unremarkable. Neonatal experts recommend that with three or more of these risk factors, the neonate should be given antibiotic therapy. Warning signs include fever, failure to suck or feed adequately, and mother yellowing or jaundice. (Normal newborn infants develop some yellowing of the skin on the first few days after discharge, but this is called physiologic jaundice which is normally expected. If it persists for more than a week, it's time to take the infant back to the doctor.)

Special care nursery

Those high-risk infants require observation and care that is beyond the scope of a normal newborn nursery. In many hospitals, this level of care is designated intermediate, level II, or special care nursery (SCN) for high-risk cases. We cannot fault though RMC if they don't have this kind of setup considering the financial constraints.

There's also no question that the mothers of the infected infants have to share part of the blame. Pregnancy or mothering an infant is not something one only goes in the hospital for when one is already due to deliver. They should have gone to the hospital for prenatal visits regularly. The DOH report said that majority of the mothers admitted in the RMC at the time the sepsis broke out either had irregular prenatal checkups or did not have previous records from the hospital which could have enabled their doctors to check on their medical antecedents.

There are indeed many lessons that can be learned in the neonatal sepsis cases in the RMC. If it is hastily dismissed as beyond the control of the hospital and nothing could have been done to prevent it, then more lessons will never be learned, and the seven infants died have died in vain.

PROPERTY

Editor Cesar D. Mangosing

Highlands' American-style homes to attract Fil-Ams

THE WOODLANDS at Tagaytay Highlands' 18-hole golf course

THE WOODLANDS

By Tessa R. Salazar

UPSCALE TAGAYTAY Highlands, a weekend "active retirement" community for CEOs and company owners who spend their weekends out of the confines of their offices to avoid burnouts, has created another project to woo the growing number of overseas-based Filipinos, particularly in the United States, who want second homes in the Philippines.

The 1,500-hectare property, which has so far only 600 hectares developed, has 2,000 high-end homes. Its annual capacity, however, is 12,000 to 13,000 homes.

It also owns 300 hectares of property beside Taal Lake.

New project

Its new project is what it calls The Woodlands at Saratoga Hills, the architectural theme of which is the "American South." These homes have ample building setbacks required by the exclusive use of verandas and porches. Lot sizes range from 1,000 to 700 square meters.

And the possible takers for this project are those who are more familiar with this setting—Filipino-Americans. Tagaytay Highlands' top management, for their part, is now in the thick of things marketing this project to its intended market.

For starters, it has set a seemingly modest target of 1 percent of 10 Asian wedding in the States. Willy Ocier, vice chair of the Ayala Corp. and chair of the Highland Clubs, estimated that this 1 percent translates to about 3,000 Fil-Am families. He added that with the 120 market, 3,000 buyers is already "quite big."

Road shows

"We're doing road shows every quarter because what's important for us is to personally reassure by the overseas market. We've been branding our product very carefully and positioning it as a high-end residential community project," he said.

Tagaytay Highlands, along with other high-end developments in the Philippines, has recognized that the niche for this type of setting is growing as there are millions of Filipinos working in the United States who want second homes in the Philippines.

Verandas and Plantation ranch, among other projects inside Tagaytay Highlands, aim to create an easygoing lifestyle that's strong on sun and open areas. And the three-square-meter, Verandas features open spaces with gardens, while Plantation Ranch is all about the romance of homes and the ranch lifestyle.

Active-retirement concept

Ocier explained to Inquirer Property that Tagaytay Highlands is built around the active retirement concept. Active retirees, Ocier adds, include 50- to 60-year-old men and women who have families and block off their weekends to "retire."

"Gone are the days when people took up to 60 and 70, and then retire. Now people retire on weekends. They take golf, gardening or mountain climbing. That's what life is all about. They work for five days and play hard on weekends. That's what we have been promoting in the past 12 years, and that's also what we're doing now," he said.

This kind of lifestyle, Ocier said, presents easier business for the drivers. Tagaytay Highlands itself had been "born-and-bred for this entry of the SM Group in 2001 through a company called Highlands Prime. At that time, Tagaytay Highlands was on the lookout for an investor to provide the financial muscle.

Leisure lifestyle

"For SM, Tagaytay Highlands is an investment in tourism and in the leisure or-ilestyle. We are, in fact, developing projects within Tagaytay Highlands like Woodridge Farmers to fit that concept of leisure lifestyle," Ocier said.

Highlands Prime a 50 percent owned by SM Group, 50 owned by Belle Corp. and the others. Tagaytay Highlands has 20 restaurants, two golf courses, badminton courts, a 14-hour clinic with resident doctor and nurse, security clearance. A hospital is in the works in anticipation of the boom it is expecting.

With a maximum membership population of about 15,000, Tagaytay Highlands is just halfway to its capacity.

The road infrastructure is in excellent condition, complemented by 24-hour security, ample grocery stores, cell sites, DSL connections, Wi-fi and urban lifestyle facilities. Mountain climbing and wedding activities are also offered.

"We basically sell nature untouched. Taal Lake is our center for water sports. Its organizer team is Taal Lake and Volcano," Ocier said.

In Playacular Hills project is a "fully organic" community. It boasts of rainwater management and organic fertilizers products. It enforces waste from solid waste management for its residences. Its project instead of using chemicals and toxic applications.

A Filipino role model for family and career

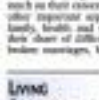
EXTERIOR of the prize-winning Pinta home

IN: I HAVE IDOLIZED ARCHITECTS like Frank Lloyd Wright and Louis Sullivan for their inspiration body of work, their talent and their vision. However, if you read on about their lives, you will discover that it was never always smooth sailing for them.

Some of the greatest builders focused on such as their careers that they neglected the other important aspects of their lives, like family, health and soul. They experienced their share of difficulties: a family problem, broken marriages, loneliness and addiction.

Many times, these failings were because this overlooked a part of their personality in the pursuit of their craft. Obviously, this is not the ideal way to go. Sacrificing family for one's career, for example, is never a perfect method.

LIVING ARCHITECTURE



Marcos de Guzmann Jr

Always a balancing act

Leaving out a name in your architectural and interior planning is a family life is always a balancing act. You cannot devote 100 percent to one without allowing the other to suffer. The challenge is to be good to your business career while being a good parent, spouse, or friend. We can easily get caught up with work and miss out on what really matters in life. We must always remember that our visions are only ever a means to make a living, to do good and to help others.

To this end, we need more and more role models to inspire us each day. One contemporary role model that comes to mind is the grand prize winner of the recently concluded Metrobank Art and Design Excellence Awards for Architecture, architect Michael T. Pinta.

I have known Mike since our first school day in the UST College of Architecture. Even then, he was always very easy to get along with and always had a ready, dimpled smile stamped on his face that makes him quite approachable. He has been married to the very lovely Marlene for the past 21 years, is proud father of three wonderful kids, and is an active member of the Iglesia Ni Cristo. Even then, he was a role model, an inspiration to us all. Congratulations, Mike!

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Contemporary Filipino home

Mike is an architect-builder by profession and, a Filipino design proponent by avocation. He has always been designing homes for his own use. He showcased the elegance and purity of line of a contemporary Filipino home. The design elements employed, while to put with prevailing trends, are still very natural and simple. He has updated the usual local decorative pieces to appear classic and new.

The overall effect is an atmosphere that is clean, welcoming, and relaxed, all positive Filipino traits. It is space that, despite its sophistication, is truly livable and warm. It is an expression of inherent Filipino artistry and a sample of his passion. The architect has chosen to create his abode within a milieu he understands and prefers. He chose to live within very Filipino surroundings. During this very contemporary time, he proves to all that Filipino design are definitely for contemporary and not old class.

Despite his success, being good in his profession never took his focus away from his family and his service. The contribution he brings to the development of our local architecture only reinforces the real value he offers his family and his community, which is being a modern-day hero, a role model, an inspiration to us all. Congratulations, Mike!

INTERIORS of the prize-winning Pinta home

Beauty and passion at The Residences at Greenbelt

AYALA Land Premier 's property specialists were on hand to attend to interested shoppers

AYALA LAND PREMIER RECENTLY celebrated the Greenbelt women of today with a special open house event titled "Beauty and Passion at The Residences at Greenbelt."

Much like characteristics of the diverse women, at Greenbelt women is defined as an individual with distinct yet eclectic tastes like how she balances between her career and personal life. Genuinely, she thinks out of the box but recognizes those things that keep her grounded. Her charisma, bundled in grace and strength of character attract a world she constantly wishes to actively participate and live well in.

Held at the project's showroom at Greenbelt 3, the all-day event featured guests clearly in the various passions of this "Greenbelt woman" and how they get to fulfill all these by living at The Residences at Greenbelt (TRAG).

One-bedroom model unit

As a major highlight of the event, Ayala Land Premier formally opened a new one-bedroom executive model unit inspired by today's career women. Residential specialists have created interior layer This Penjuri, the unit captures the many facets of today's women—their fashionably sense of refinement and inner strength.

During the event, visitors were seen set up inside the showroom to highlight a woman's different passions. Her love of combining good food and great company is seen in "Passion for Indulgence," where guests enjoyed a buffet spread of delicious pasta dishes, fruit, delicacies,

CLOSE-UP: check out a model unit.

and pastries, quick and easy dishes the busy career woman can prepare and be a treat to impress family and friends with. There were even special recipes and truffle making experiences by the Greenbelt women's talented home chef desserts.

Relaxing spa area

And, as the Greenbelt woman also needs a little relaxation and time away for herself, the extension of TRAG was featured into a relaxing spa area, complete with soothing music and aromatics.

The "Passion for Pampering" station gave visitors a chance to relax and unwind under the hands of expert masseuses from The Spa. There too, a professional prime Greenbelt mediums, which all the more gave guests a preview of living at TRAG.

To cap off a day of indulgence and pampering, guests were captured in "Beauty Queen Moments" at the "Passion for Real Beauty" station. This serve as a celebration of beauty as natural as the Greenbelt woman. Guests effortlessly said as signing testimonies of their "Beauty and Passion" experience at TRAG.

A universe of high living

The all-day open residential tour also showcased the newly opened with the Greenbelt lifestyle center and the Makati Central Business District. The Residences at Greenbelt presents a universe of high living, its diverse selection of high-rise living and residential options it so easily within reach, and its choice locations provides unparalleled convenience and ease of daily living, making it both an exciting and relaxing perfect weekend home.

The Residences at Greenbelt residences all the values of Ayala Land Premier the new name for top-end developments of Ayala Land providing exclusivity, security, ultimate comfort and privacy. It continues Ayala Land's trademark legacy of enhancing the residents' quality-of-life with its portfolio of prime locations and trophy addresses.

Model units can be viewed at the third level, Greenbelt 3.

Where the business of living come to life

FOR THE PAST 15 YEARS, THE Philippine Construction Association (PCA) has been introducing the latest local and international products, services and technology to architects, contractors, designers, engineers, developers and homeowners through the organization of the country's most important building and construction trade event. Philconstruct.

This is one of the few events left in the country that we can truly claim is to world-class. It is one of the longest running event in the region because PCA is able to perfectly blend the trade exhibit with various activities such as the technology forum, interior design session, technical seminars on business trends and governance policies and roundtable business-to-business discussions for members. Philconstruct is now the most awaited annual event today," said Jorge Consunji, president of the Philippine Construction Association Inc. and DMCI.

60 exhibitors

Philconstruct 2006, the 16th Philippine International Construction, Building Materials and Equipment Exhibition and Technology Forum, will be held from Nov. 8 to 11 at the sprawling World Trade Center Metro Manila. It will bring together over 600 exhibitors coming from 15 countries showcasing the latest in interior products and new technology in construction focusing on affordability, durability, energy-saving devices, environmental protection and safety applications.

"Our visitors are able to network with the high level executives from government, international and local companies at Philconstruct. The PCA is committed to find more ways to continue to improve the quality of this for every Filipino and this has served as the driving force behind its effort in bringing together suppliers and end-users under one roof, "Consunji added.

Sponsors

This year's Philconstruct is sponsored by Bayuco, Cemex Philippines, Charter Chemicals (Davis), Eskwin Philippines, Lafarge Cement, Maxim Equipment and Monark Equipment. It will occupy over 15,000 square meters indoor or outdoor space with products and services from Australia, Canada, China, France, Germany, Hong Kong, Italy, Japan, Korea, Malaysia, Singapore, Switzerland, Thailand and Wales and the United Kingdom.

For more information, please contact event organizer Global Link Marketing and Management (Phils.) at 5502 7504/0586 or the 5502 750-8080 and 807-1205 or e-mail jing.lo@globallinkph.com.

Developer ventures into hotel business

By Charles E. Bukan

PROPERTY DEVELOPER Federal Land Inc. started with an idea of creating communities that would provide a well-planned and improved standard of living for Filipinos.

Since it established in 1972, the company (then known as Federal Homes) has provided the market with first-rate residential condominium, office space and build-to-sell developments.

This time, Federal Land has decided to add another achievement to its portfolio—pioneering into the hotel business with the the development of the Manos Polo Plaza Cebu.

The property, which is actually the former Cebu Plaza Hotel, is developed together with a joint-venture company Federal Land has set up, the Asia Pacific Top Management International Resources Corp.

Decades of expertise

"Using the company's decades of expertise in land and property development as well as Hong Kong-based Manos Polo Group's management proficiency, Federal Land has renamed the 26-year-old structure and revitalized it to one of Cebu's leading hotel establishments," informed Reynaldo Villar of APEMIC and president of Manos Polo Plaza Cebu.

The P600-million development was officially opened to guests last April 6 though Villar said improvements are still ongoing in time for the hotel's major assignment next month: being one of the host hotels of the 12th Assessors of Southeast Asian Nations (Asean) Summit (Cebu is this year's host).

"We are hosting international leaders and delegates and at present, we are working round the clock to prepare our people and the infrastructure. This is an opportune time for us to promote the hotel," Villar said.

Elevated view

The elevated view (181 meters above sea level) of Manos Polo Plaza Cebu is probably one of the property's major draw. Located in the prominent Mont Hills district of Cebu City, the hotel offers great view of the cityscape in the east and the mountain view in the west.

Surrounded by 7.5 hectares of lush vegetation with landscaping by Ulises Aurelio of AGR Design, Manos Polo Plaza Cebu aspires to be one of the province's most prominent elite situations," described hotel's general manager Hans Kraut.

He added that the overall design of the hotel is inspired by the original Manos Polo Hotel interior, **great height and spacious.**

With Berlo Y Gana Architecture in charge of the redesign, the hotel main lobby's 10 meters high ceiling now features a glamorous chandelier made from Swarovski crystals as well as wooden shelf full of heirloom clay jars that adds a touch of old world elegance.

129 guest rooms

Each of Manos Polo Plaza Cebu's 430 guest rooms features a more contemporary design, opulent wood furnishings from Cebu, and a much brighter yet relaxing mood lighting fixture.

"The booming tourism industry in the Philippines and in the rest of the Asean region has strengthened the resolve of Federal Land to venture into the hospitality business. We entered this partnership with Manos Polo to learn because of their reputation for successfully blending Asian hospitality with Western innovation," Villar explained.

Kraut agreed that such Manos Polo hotel is a distinctive and unique as the destination to which it resides. "Our portfolio of 12 hotels continues to grow to be one of the leading hotel brands in the region."

He added that the hotel chain is confident about its expansion plans, which include growing into 29 hotels by 2015. Manos Polo Plaza Cebu is their eighth hotel and second in the Philippines.

EACH room features a more contemporary design, opulent wood furnishings from Cebu, and a much brighter yet relaxing mood lighting fixture.

MANOS Polo Plaza Cebu's overall design is inspired by the hotel chain's modern, grand, bright and spacious.

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BUSINESS

Privatization proceeds seen going over P500M

Teves targets sale of gov't stake in PLDT, SMC

By Elizabeth L. Sanchez

THE DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE wants to raise its target collection from the sale of key assets next year from P500 million.

Finance Secretary Margarito Teves said yesterday after the launch of a capital markets blueprint at the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) that he was not "comfortable" with the P500-million target.

"I want it higher. It can be much more than that, but the key is timing," Teves said.

He said he had asked the Privatization Management Office to review the targets and finish the study this year.

Teves said that the government was working on the sale of its power transmission assets on Dec. 20.

At least three groups have been prequalified to bid for the 25-year concession to operate the assets of the National Transmission Corp. (Transco), worth an estimated $2.7 billion, P130.80 said.

Teves also said government planned to sell the government shares in Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co., San Miguel Corp. and Manila Electric Co.

Hopefully again, we would have privatized anywhere between 50 to 70 percent of related assets," Teves said.

Teves, however, said he did not have any specific timetable on the sale of these shares but hoped it would be completed next year.

The government has already generated P7.69 billion from the sale of assets and dividends from state corporations as of September this year, exceeding the target of P500 million.

The government only set a conservative target of P500 million for this year and the next because of uncertainties on the private sector's willingness to buy its assets.

The biggest state assets sold this year include the former international school campus off the Makati business district and a property of the now-defunct Manila Gas Corp. in Mandaluyong.

The congress was ready to divest upon Century Properties Inc. for P3.43 billion.

The Manila Gas property, on the other hand, was sold to Robinsons Land Corp. for P674 million.

Other assets planned for privatization are television stations BPN 9 and BIC 12, Philippine Postal Corp., Al-Amanah Islamic Bank, and the government's stake in water concessionaire Maynilad Water Services Corp.

TO CATCH A COUNTERFEIT Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas corporate affairs director Fe M. Dela Cruz (left), Currency Analysis Cluster Mabi and BSP deputy director Roberto Tungcu show the difference between genuine Philippine money and fake peso bills and coins.

Palace sacks Mañalac, replacements named

By Abigail L. Ho

FOLLOWING THE CONTROVERSY surrounding the Comelec-Hakaan pays-oil deposit, Malacañang has decided to sack Philippine National Oil Co. president Eduardo Mañalac, naming two career PNOC executives as his possible replacements.

A person familiar with the matter revealed that the decision appointing PNOC senior vice president Pedro Aquino Jr. as PNOC president had already been signed and delivered to Energy Secretary Raphael Lotilla.

Aquino succeed PNOC Exploration Corp. (PNOC-EC) senior vice president and chief operating officer Rafael del Pilar, or the other hand, would be called back to government service to take Mañalac's place at the helm of PNOC-EC, the source said.

In a telephone interview Thursday, however, Del Pilar said he had no idea that he would be recalled to lead PNOC-EC.

"I haven't heard anything. It's nice to be a retiree, after serving in PNOC for more than 29 years. I don't think they will do that [appoint me]," he said.

Lotilla also said he had not seen any appointment papers for either Aquino or Del Pilar.

But the well placed source said the appointment papers had been signed.

Despite the signed appointment papers, another insider said some shake-ups could still take place as some quarters were lobbying to have former National Power Corp. president and now Mandaue-Philippine Corp. president Roberto Ongpin and former Senator and current Presidential Adviser for Agrarian Reform Roberto Ongpin take Mañalac's place.

Even PNOC president Mañalac Cataquiz had been floated as a possible Mañalac replacement, the source said.

The industry has been rife with talk that Malacañang would sack Mañalac, following the Camaya-Mañalac pays-oil deposit controversy.

PNOC had earlier drawn flak for entering into a lotto-in agreement with Hilera Energy Ltd. without going through transparent procedures and even bypassing a local group that wanted to develop the Bhutanese oil reserves.

This led to the issuance of EO 556, which removed PNOC's authority to enter into any joint-venture concerning the development of the Malampaya oil site.

The PNOC-EC board, in a meeting in September, had even asked Mañalac to step down or risk being fired.

Mañalac, however, refused to do so, saying only President Macapagal-Arroyo could make him resign.

He was unavailable for comment as of press time.

Sugar farmers buck entry of foreign firms

By Christine A. Gaylican

THE COUNTRY'S LARGEST GROUP of sugar farmers has warned the government against allowing flocks of foreign investors in the sugar industry on grounds it would lead to a drop in sugar prices.

The Confederation of Sugar Producers Associations Foundation, which claims to have 50,000 farmer members nationwide, said in a statement yesterday that the Philippine government should only encourage foreign investments in refined sugar production.

Cashed president and Balatazon Gov. Jose Ethel said there was more than enough supply of sugar for local consumption, and some producers have even gone into export.

"Further increases in production would not be absorbed by the local market as local consumption is now pegged at 1.9 million metric tons. The rest are exported to the United States and other foreign buyers," Ethel said.

Allowing the entry of foreign investors in sugar production for food, he said, would cause overproduction and consequently a drop in sugar prices.

He recommended that any additional funds to be planned to sugarcane should instead be directed to ethanol production.

The Group made this statement in line with the Rizal Group's intention to look for 30,000 hectares of suitable land for sugarcane production.

Aside from the Rizal Group's vast real estate and hotel business holdings, the group also owns and manages sugarcane and oil palm plantations, mills and refineries in Malaysia and Indonesia.

According to Philippine Sugar Millers Association (PSMA) executive director Jose Maria Salonga, the local industry was receptive to joining hands with foreign investors in ethanol production.

"It would be viable to go into ethanol production now. There are areas that we are identifying with government that will be in tandem with local sugar production," Salonga said in a separate interview.

DBA Administrator James Christopher Lotilla said the agency would assist foreign companies looking for areas suitable for ethanol production, particularly in Mindanao.

DBA earlier identified idle land in Bukidnon and Agusan that can accommodate an integrated ethanol production facility.

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Post -Halloween photo-folio page 01

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All united for Local-E page 02

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Get with the new (electronica) movement

It's time to put local electronica in the spotlight—and there's no better way to start than with a 13-track CD that will be given away for free

By David Milan
Photos by Daniel Tan and Rolly Banzuela

IT'S A GOOD TIME TO BE PINOY aural maximal.

Filipino talent in the form of popular music is blatant. From the lady divo to the singer-songwriter, from the melodically tight rock band to the natural rhythms of a rapper, the Filipino has recorded in almost all aspects of popular music. Some have even reached international status. It is just natural then Filipino talent is also present in other forms of music that may not be as popular with mainstream audiences, such as the every progressing electronic music.

It is the year 2004 and a new movement has begun: iDOLA!!!.vol.

Guards who Jono Oshanta, Spit City/Elita Miranda's lecturer Sanchez, former "Lit MOD" Double, Jubilee Cardoz and Dan Dan "Shamboy" Bautista—all members of our constantly growing club scene and are known for their artistic integrity—spearhead this new triumph. iDOLA!!!.vol is a elaborate effort to unify the growing DJ scene, to increase awareness and appreciation of this electronic art and bring DJs and its pure locally produced electronica, to encourage production of original material regardless of genre or sub-genre, to share technical knowledge of music production, software and hardware, to provide a venue for dance-oriented night that will push the local electronica scene and in accompanying culture to reach its full potential in both the local and international markets.

iDOLA!!!.vol is an industrial but powerful dance to open communication between artists like producers and bar owners/talent managers, promoters, event organizers, ad agencies, the telecommunications suppliers and anyone else interested in changing our underworldly but undeniably stellar professional DJ scene.

The first line of the iDOLA!!!.vol movement has been mainly music producers, while the old music hands bring on their pro. Kik. The initial roster includes some of the brightest stars of the local electronica scene—titled SOL Andi Sanchez—resonating, Brian Gan, crossfield, the Kinch, international recording artist Paolo Ang (recording, keyboard, Bass), Rubber Inc, Silverfilter, cybernetika, Trip M, and visual artists brandedmedia, Lazaro / 3D has also collaborated with popular artists of other genres, namely Jay Capuco, Jun Lopez, Juan Pablo Bravo, Jojo Mico, the Dowd and Jerry Acuda, creating a world-class fusion with a uniquely Pinoy flavor who under the umbrella are collaborations in existing performances, lectures and visual arts, film, fashion and graphic design.

The movement has begun and is now underway and the people behind iDOLA!!!.vol and native artistes with a passion for electronica and the desire to see Filipinos finally take artistes stage in clubs/bars to support their own talent.

And to call the country about this new movement, iDOLA!!!.vol is releasing a special CD—one that unites the ingenious talents of the music industry, one that celebrates pinoy electronica and its daily vitality.

The CD features the artistry of local DJ's and producers—Local Electronica Collective Manila. It is a mix of sounds that are wonderful and very Pinoy.

Local Electronica Collective Manila is at this—a great mix, one that is in the mind to becoming a great reality. The first iDOLA!!! set CD is a collection of 13 original tracks and remixes. Limited copies are to be given for free.

The movement has begun and there's no doubt about it—every pioneer things will come.

E-mail localmusic@yahoo.com for more information.

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Rubber Inc.

Uniquely Singapore, Uniquely Podium

It's that time of year again when the Singapore Tourism Board and The Podium get together in Uniquely Singapore, Uniquely Podium, a weekend of fun and excitement wherein shoppers have a chance to win one of twenty (20) trips to Singapore.

It's also a good time to discover the malls's shops and entertainment—they and also at The Podium on Ronquillo 9 and 3, from P1,000.00 purchase entitles to a raffle coupon and a chance to play the new Wheel Ball Casino, and win instant prizes from the Singapore Tourism Board and The Podium, as well as more raffle coupons. Twenty (20) air tickets to Singapore, not on each day, will be raffled off during the event.

This is the first in years that the Singapore Tourism Board and The Podium have collaborated on the shopping, and have in far more savvy (-ish) shoppers to Singapore. Here are the winning stories of three of last year's winners: Sabrina Gan, Edna Gonzales, and Olga Imbong.

EDNA Gonzales at the Riverside Point.

EDNA Gonzales during her record trip to Singapore.

Sabrina Gan, 31, is a Podium regular who loves eating out and shopping at the malls, stores and shops. That is because, she says she likes the malls "good ambience, atmosphere and accommodating staff."

Sabrina's most favorite eat-in-the-mall restaurant is Chili's. And coming from a dining at their family's favorite restaurant. She admits that she got two raffle coupons and three instant prizes from spending the above.

During her trip to Singapore, Sabrina—who usually saves fortunes—enjoyed eating restaurant Singaporean food and shopping, as well as visiting Singapore's tourist attractions.

Edna Gonzales, who works as weekly travel Development Bank, is another Podium regular who says she likes the mall's upmarket crowd and ambiance.

She usually does her relaxing mall saver from the purchase of $100 cash. Before proceeding to her trip Edna researched on the best places to shop in Singapore. A confirmed super shopper, Edna opted to visit her best during the Big Singapore Sale, where she not only had a chance to shop, but also

Uniquely Singapore . . .

Bag amazing prizes at Uniquely Singapore Destination Roadshows

THE SINGAPORE TOURISM BOARD-Philippines (STB-P) is kicking off another series of its popular destination roadshows, bringing one of a kind games and special prizes to your favorite malls across the city. STB-P's Series of Destination Roadshows will start out with a bang in the top lifestyle mall, The Podium, on November 4 & 5 and continue through to Gateway Mall on November 18 & 19, Greenhills Promenade and Greenhills Theatre Mall on November 25 & 26, and festival Supermall on December 2 & 3.

Check out these malls and shop your heart out to enjoy special fun games and join exciting raffle draws. Take home exclusive prizes from STB-P and the participating venues, as well as this chance to win free trips to Singapore. STB-P will be raffling off a total of 20 roundtrip airtickets to Singapore. They will also be giving away 20 Uniquely Singapore Limited Edition Monopoly sets during the roadshow dates in each mall.

Together with all the excitement involved in this event, the roadshows will feature travel agencies that will help guests make plans for that unforgettable trip to Singapore. There is no better time to book your trip, purchase your airtickets or a travel package, to experience all that the Lion City has to offer.

Ms. Rocco Chang, Area Director for STB's Philippine office explains, "November, December and January are very busy months in Singapore as the country prepares for and celebrates an important holiday and travel season. Christmas and New Year's are major holidays in Singapore. Our 'world-famous and grandest Christmas Light Up show is a sight to behold with a new theme and look each year. Many come with their cameras and video devices just for this alone. Visitors cannot believe and are amazed by the lights, sights and sounds of Christmas in Singapore. What we do not have in terms of snow and the icy cold weather, we more than make up for in the atmosphere, ambiance, and celebratory spirit. At these Roadshows, we offer a glimpse of what one can expect in Singapore. I encourage all Filipino families to consider spending their Christmas here. The fun parades, the shopping bargains, the many world-class events, the wonderful diverse food options - the bonding experience is very special."

In addition to the spectacular Christmas in the Tropics from December 15 to January 2, 2007, winner-the winner an itinerary of the Singapore Formula winning until November 12, the special Rose Expo 2006 cultural celebration from November 17 to 26, the radiant Singapore Garden Festival from December 16 to 25, the stunning Countdown to 2007 on New Year's Eve and much, much more! Catch the Uniquely Singapore Destination Roadshows and experience a bite of the high-energy, excitement and sheer fun of holidays in Singapore.

For more information on STB-P's Series of Destination Roadshows, call STB-P at 8185000.

Together with all the excitement involved in this event, the roadshows will feature travel agencies that will help guests make plans for that unforgettable trip to Singapore

Olga Magnanapa experienced a unique Night Safari with her husband Ramirez.

Olga Magnanapa with her family at Jurong Birdpark.

It's that time of the year again for mall hopping and winning trips to Singapore!

Once again, heading to the malls may win you a trip to Singapore. Plus, there are giveaways and prizes to be won at Singapore Tourism Board-Philippines' series of mall events. So visit your favorite mall and you may soon be flying off to a *Uniquely Singapore* trip.

The Podium	: November 4 & 5
Gateway Mall	: November 18 & 19
Greenhills Promenade & Greenhills Theatre Mall	: November 25 & 26 Festival
Supermall	: December 2 & 3

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Local Electronica . . .

From page E3

Trip M

Introduction, to borrow Bob Ong's guitar math, the mid-dazzle of fast, passionate percussions, and hypnotic interweaves in a sound that doesn't quite know what it is. It's hard going for the listener used to a still-dozing in the forms of the last-row-bellower-in-the-acting Tita in church, or to-sweet and 'it's-refreshing-to-hear-Filipino-music-played' fare. Fans of the country's most fecund imaginations are watching more of the former than of reality simply.

DJ Patch

The disco and jazz influences during Patch's childhood days has now become the underneath sound to the music he plays, and the ones he creates as a producer, remixer and arranger. Taking him around the Philippines and spanning remix opportunities with legendary recording artist Bob Lachanza and Manila's last-living indie band, 'The Chill Son,' this producing scion of Investigado duo are becoming anthem among Manila's premiere nightspots. One of the changes of the funky groove sound, Patch has stayed true to that house sound ... that funk-full!

Brian Cua

Brian's amazing, sometimes-precious guitar-centered becomers in 1991, creating highly successful singles, he also went to 2001 Nokia TV Awards for 'Best Musical Scoring (short film)', and has participated as a finalist in Metrosong and Himig Handog Songwriting Festivals. He won for dance music sensibility, received honorable mentions from Hit Mag as being nominee for 'Acidic Weapon', 'Phone's' and 'Hello (The Way You Look Tonight)', an alter-ego (also Chaddie's) which dressed into local club fare. His latest projects are Synthony and Loopbox with DJ Trixie Mirasol.

Artstrong

A multi-talented Pinoy Producer/ DJ/ Singer/ Composer/ Musician/ Artist that had 'fame' in the local dance scene since 1994. He released his first song exclusively for non-album in May 2003 released under Negative Music Philippines. He was awarded as Best Dance Producer, Best Male Artist, Best Jazz, Best Male Performer of the Year at the 18th Annual Awit Awards 2005.

Wyeth

"IPD could've taken away my Belle."

A True Story

Four years ago, celebrity mom Donna Cua-Lasquetad's healthy, bubbly daughter Belle, suddenly fell ill. "She really had difficulty breathing," recalls a tearful Donna.

"Hindi na makadede yung cough niya dahil sa mabilis na pata," the young mom says. "Nag-iiffy-iffy talaga si Belle."

A laboratory test revealed that Belle was struck down by Streptococcus pneumoniae, a common and deadly bacteria that causes invasive Pneumococcal Disease or IPD. The bacteria can spread through respiratory droplets, such as those found in sneezes and coughs. The resulting infection can lead to many life-threatening illnesses such as meningitis, sepsis and, in Belle's case, pneumonia.

IPD strikes without warning and does not discriminate. Not even the status of Donna's family or the expert care of her husband, a doctor, protected Belle from the disease.

Belle eventually recovered, but not all of the bacteria's victims are as lucky. According to WHO, more than a million babies are lost every year to IPD worldwide. In the Philippines, pneumonia is the No. 1 cause of death among children less than 5 years of age.

"Nakakatakot talaga. Walang magulang na gagustuhing mangyari 'yon. That's when I realized the importance of prevention," says Donna. "From then on, we followed all the necessary schedules for vaccines. I never want that kind of thing to happen to my family ever again. Pre-IPD vaccine can help save a child's life talaga."

Infants and toddlers are IPD's most vulnerable victims. That is why it is important to protect them as early as possible. Indeed, there is a way to safeguard your child from this traitor. If you have a child aged 9 years and below, ask your doctor about the IPD vaccine. A little knowledge and the gift of immunization are all it takes to protect your precious ones – now and for many years to come.

"Thank God, she was spared."

Donna Cua-Lasquetad with daughter Belle today

ipd

Ask your doctor about it.

( ) Yes! I want to know more about IPD! Please send me more information.

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DUNKIN'DUDE'S CASTLE. Dunkman is a heavyweight.

Tim Yap

BEFORE THERE WAS THE Cartoon Network, there was Saturday Fun Machine. The members of the Justice League were my ultimate heroes. I would gorge on Gary Grace and greenness towards the Great Space Cruiser. And now, years later, every Halloween season, I try my best to bring that childhood back to life. The final weekend of October is a screaming costume change for me.

Last weekend, Manila's weekend fiat [illegible] and today's Manila sponsoring two massive parties. The first one was at Cream, the old Annex Hall—the last relic of Big Pink with Dominic Ochoa and Pilar Clench, author of [illegible] Tech who else, we had a lot of great, bonding moments, which involved everything [illegible]

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When it comes to liquor, Mike's the man. As the National Sales Manager for brands such as Jack Daniel's, Jagermeister, Patron, Absolut, Stoli, Bacardi, Hennessy, Tequila Rose, Malt Blaze and Fluffies among others, Mike can tell you just how hard it is to go from the bottle, to the glass, to your hand. "We're not as big as the other players in the industry, so we really need to be efficient in getting our customers the best products, promotions Sun helps us do just that."

Any wine connoisseur will tell you that keeping the temperature stable in the warehouses is crucial to maintaining the quality of the liquor. And since Mike's warehouses in Manila, Cebu, Davao, Subic and Baguio are all on Sun, he doesn't think twice about his cost. Sun's updates are important to him since inventory, interviews, sales, collections, and on-premise promotions is real-time for

And if that isn't enough, he stands up on Sun's allowance for texts. Even if it's just to ask, "How's the weather?"

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Ready, set, online race!

IF YOU WANTED TO JOIN The Amazing Race Asia but didn't make the cut, we have good news. You can join The Amazing Race Asia Online Race and win awesome prizes. Grab a partner and take the plunge into an online world of clues and challenges.

The online race is ABS-CBN's way of showing their commitment to give viewers a 360-degree more extensive experience.

The Amazing Race Asia Online Race has planned fun and interactive activities for fans. Contestants will have to search for clues and weave their way through a web of challenges, including tasks like answering the role of an Amazing Race (announcer/host) by commentating through the clues, crossword puzzles and more.

The race is played by teams of 2 and the goal is to race from checkpoint to checkpoint online. Each team will have to complete a special task in order to get the clues to the next checkpoint. A tutorial of the race can be found at http://amazing.race-asia.abs-cbn.com/promotions/online-race/index.html.

Registration for The Amazing Race Asia Online Race is now open and registration closes tomorrow. The race will run in two legs. The first leg will be held from Nov. 5 (7 p.m.) to Nov. 9 (7 p.m.). Participants have to answer all the checkpoints in the specified sequence within this period to qualify for the next leg of the race.

THE AMAZING RACE ASIA

The second leg will be held on Nov. 12, where all participants have to log in from 12 noon onwards to the final race on the finishing line where the grand prize of $1,000 awaits the winner!

Registration details can be found at http://amazing.race-asia.abs-cbn.com/. The Amazing Race Asia Online Race is slated for broadcast on Nov. 9.

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SATURDAY Special

Editor Nestor U. Torre • Assistant Editor Rito P. Asilo

Instructive points of departure in *Lea* and *Regine's* concerts

By Nestor U. Torre

LEA SALONGA'S "Tomorrow" concert at the CCP last month was a visually and aurally pleasing presentation that inspired listeners with Lea's moving thoughts on motherhood and the shared need for everyone to boost children's healthy physical and psychological development. Her cautionary words about young people's need to grow up in a world at peace were also well-received.

Relatively muted

On the other hand, despite the talents of her chosen successors, Lea turned out to be no laidback and "cool" as a performer, to audience resentment in her songs was appreciative, but relatively muted.

The much-admired bell-like timbre of her singing voice was still very much in evidence, but her stage moves were emotionally distant. Her high notes also didn't seem to be as strong as they were before.

In radically instructive contrast, we caught Regine Velasquez's recent concert. "Overjoy" on TV and noted that she appeared to have the opposite problem. She battled so relentlessly in her style throughout the show that her similarly much-admired singing voice suffered.

That was a big disappointment, because Regine's anniversary concert started off very well, with a long number with specially-written lyrics that recalled her determination as a singing star with critical flair, panache and feeling.

Unfortunately, that feeling appeared to get the better of Regine in succeeding numbers. She was so happy to have "survived" and flourished for two decades in the biz that she sang her heart out—musically healthy and at an unusually xenophobic pitch level—and decibels, for comfort.

SALONGA. Earnest sentiments, but emotionally-distant rendition.

VELASQUEZ. Needs to go beyond stylists, and face more truly artistic challenges.

Gratitude

Perhaps because she had become popular due to her hit-singing, Regine expressed her gratitude to her loyal fans by gifting them with what they loved most about her, and hit one high note after another on the point of ecstasy and drawn.

Worse, some of the more

Nostalgia, thespic magic come together in 'The Good Body'

By Rito P. Asilo

MONIQUE WILSON, Pinky Amador and Jano Henares were through their respective rites of theatrical passage at Repertory Philippines' fabled rehearsal halls.

Source of amusement

And while production work for New Voice's latest production, Ivy Baker's "The Good Body" (which premieres at the Music Museum on Nov. 18 and 11 at 8 p.m.), is at fever pitch this week, the exciting and brilliant actress who make up the cast—and their happy, hilarious and harrowing recollections of their Rep heyday—are a constant source of amusement.

We did start with Tin Silor (Amador) and Tita Baby (Henares) in a special staging of "The Mighty Monsoon" in 2001, with Tin Gelo (Tim Lee) as "King and I," and with Tita Ivy Oliveral in "Cabaret" ten years ago, and we have only fond

WILSON. Plaudits major and few minor roles in Baker's new play.

memories of them—minus the ingredient screaming, of course.

Memories, it turns out, don't run short: everytime Monique, Jano and Pinky get together (and the rehearsal period), they are bombarded from one another because the show contains mostly of monologues).

"The Good Body" isn't just a

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Provocative German shorts buck conventional trends in animation

By Nica Avenido

"THE PATCHWORK QUEEN." Lina collage is still in surreal story.

NOWADAYS, WHEN WE SAY "animation," it usually refers to digital cartoon on television and 3-D computer-animation on the silver screen. If line been a decade since I studied animation at the Mowelfund Film Institute.

In those days, we studied films made by the Quay Brothers, Jiri Trnka and Norman McLaren. The experience opened my eyes to the different styles of animation—photos, puppets and sketches.

Styles

I miss those films even. I only saw their styles when I attend film festivals—annual fix, when I go round that 12 animated German shorts were going to be screened at the Goethe Institut in Manila last Oct. 27. I made it a point to catch the event, "Animated Films from Germany."

"Fidke" is the story of a nasty, old man who runs to end his life by lying on a railroad track. Crossed by Jochen Hermann using traditional hand-drawings, the old man's melancholy turns into euphoria when he meets his unlawful "angels of death," as trains pass by the underpass. A measure of what's happening on the screen: Does the pessimistic succeed to end?

Surreal

Lars Henkel's "The Patchwork Queen" uses collage to tell a strange, surreal story about a broken heart sewn back together with raw needles and threads!

Andy Baker's "Stream" is about an anxious archaeologist confined to a Cairo hospital. His hallucination transports him back to his search for a pharaoh's tomb. Cinematography is superb, while production design is intricate and realistic, and boasts of Egyptian symbols and sets.

Rainer's ring-motion puppetry boasts one in one of how he has successfully "animated" even mundane and movements of his characters—a seemingly impossible task that he deftly handles.

Another short film that was puppet-design animation is "Ubald Terhi" by Tim Hirth. The movie follows the bittersweet love story of a man who visits a closed carnival. The ancient creator—whom he barely knows—welcomes him with a panoramic of the premises, during which he discovers a woman imprisoned inside a glass cage. He sets her free, but soon suffers the consequences of his action.

Must-see

Most of the German shorts are provocative, and don't follow mainstream trends in animation. The collection is a must-see for film lovers and students. But, we must warn you: It's not easy to analyze. If possess-ive animated shorts is our calling!

"Animated Films from Germany" is screened every Friday (at 6 p.m.) and Saturday (3 p.m.) until Nov. 25 at the Goethe Institut-Manila. Call 848-2725 ext 24.

METRO ▶ PG-13

METRO ▶ PG-13

Intricate mindbender from Christopher Nolan

By Nestani Reyes

"WHICH CLOSES?" IS A LINE YOU'LL often hear in Christopher Nolan's newest mindbender, "The Prestige," and it's a line your eardrums listen if you don't want to get lost in the dark, twisty world that the director plunges us into.

For the winning pleasure of those who have yet to watch this film, let's roll-ish from giving away too much of the plot. Now, know this much: Nolan, who gave us "Memento" and "Batman Begins," delivers—and then some.

Obsession

Set in the Victorian era, the film tells the tale of two magicians—Robert Angier (Hugh Jackman) and Alfred Borden (Christian Bale)—and the obsession that consumes them.

Angier is only middlingly talented as a magician, but he's a consummate showman. Borden is the more talented trickster, but he doesn't know how to sell his tricks.

Then Angier sees Borden's colleague, both apprenticing under an established magician (cool-Bit presidential Michael Caine). Borden, a skilled, but compelling, who's. Boy, a tragically botched trick turns what was once friendly competition into a no-holds-barred one-upmanship that soon becomes brutal and dangerous.

The production gets its title from magicians' jargon. In costume Michael Caine tells us, a magic trick is composed of three parts: The first is the "pledge," where the magician shows you something ordinary. The second part is the "turn," wherein he makes that ordinary thing do something unusual. (Like disappear). The final part is the "prestige," where he brings everything back to the ordinary level, and leaves us wondering how he did it.

The film's plot follows these parts, with Nolan leaving us tantalizing clues here and there. The first scene itself—a duel of dozens of top hats leaving the ground...is a clue.

BALE AND JACKMAN. Friendly competition turns into no-holds-barred one-upmanship.

Novel

Based on the novel by Christopher Priest, the movie starts in the present and cuts insanely flashes back to the past. It's a bit like "Memento," but easier to follow. (Remember, "Which closes?")

As Angier and Borden take down or each other while they rise to fame, the stakes get higher, and involve more and more people. Still, despite the incessant cacophony of their obsession, and the larger-than-life accomplishments of the two lead actors, their characters remain strangely unobtrusive and slightly inhuman. This is no shortcoming, however. Do the economy sets what gives us that extra chill.

Enigmatic

Which cut aim for the performances of Caine (as magical engineer, Cutter), Scarlett Johansson (as the assistant), Rebecca Hall (as the wife), and David Bowie, who plays the enigmatic scientist figure, Tesla. The characters round out this labyrinthine story superbly.

Nostalgia. . .

From page E1

gathering of three of Philippine theater's most exciting actresses, is also—maybe a reunion of sorts for them. Curiously, the trio admits to having appeared together in only one play show, "A Chorus Line." Monique was, of course, the baby of her batch (she was only nine years old when she began acting).

Resident ingénue

Back in those days, Jones was Reg's resident ingénue. The actress has done a lot—including an ultra-sensational turn in a stage version of "They're Playing 'Em Today" opposite Christopher de Leon.

But, when she got busy with those hit-somethings—acting on TV, performing in Sonia Pilipino productions, singing with the New Minstrels—the company's staging of "I Ought to be in Pictures" suddenly lost its leading lady at the time, the production couldn't ask for being leaves to take over, because she was performing. What could?

Somebody suggested: Why not the pretty and reliable member of the newsboys? Surely, she could do better than those wayward cats on the set, right? ...Pinky! Tito Eliot protested. "But, does she know how to act?" Soon, Amadeo's sister proved, to everyone that she had the talent and guts to rise from the ranks.

Original cast

Pinky has since won two Aliw awards for her actress (for "Signos of God" and "The Forsigner") and nominations from the Urian ("Sunny Pig-Boy Ho") and Star Awards ("Magdiwang Ka"), joined the original cast of "Miss Saigon" in London, and successfully crossed over to films and television.

Play before "Miss Saigon," though, Pinky had to leave the country to study drama in London—which proved another turning dilemma for Reg. But, it didn't take long to figure out what to do about the loss: They turned on Monique who, at 14, was already a time-honed Reg veteran! The pretty young teenager previously "played" Pinky's singing voice in "Signos of God."

Monique, of course, was already portraying adult roles long before she donned the skimpy-two-piece of "Miss Saigon" and played Kim on the Pros Bad. She has since evolved into the leading feminine and actress that she is today.

Show biz bug

Aside from putting up New Voice, she has also joined the show biz fray and, along the way, won the "STAR" award, as Irene for "Lara ni Regie"), a FAP ("Unang Iginuhit ng Hintid ng Puso") and an Aliw (for "Cabaret"). She also returns to Rep this month to play Maria in "The Sound of Music." The Showcase teacher at London's prestigious Royal Academy of Dramatic Arts (RADA).

It's easy to understand our excitement over the actor's reunion in a play that is deceptively light in tone, but relevant and powerful in thematic scope.

Jonathan plays the iconic Trailer, while Bellon and Monique portray five major characters and five minor roles each. How's that for versatility? When Monique, Jane and Pinky interact onstage, it's nothing short of theatric magic!

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SCHOOL FOR SCOUNDRELS

Memorable scenes from SCARY MOVIES recalled

By Nestor U. Torre

LAST ALL SOULS' DAY, WE WERE SHOOTing the chilly breeze with friends, and the talk veered to the scariest scenes we'd seen in the movies. Spooky recollections came one after another, until we ended up with quite a freaky-fun list that had us shrieking and giggling in the same time.

At the top of many clients' list was the film "Essential" film, especially the sequences in which little Linda Blair floated in mid-air, turned her head all the way around, and repelled a stream of pea-soup "vomit" from her mouth.

Plot twist

There comes "Carrie," with its pseudo-mass plot twist that had the good guy thinking the evil enemy was dead, only to be grabbed in the ankle again for a final life-and-death struggle.

We will remember the shrieks from viewers as the ankle was grabbed. That scene became so iconic that it was shamelessly copied by other horror movies in film sources to come.

A film buff partial to sophisticated horror movies paid homage to "The Innocents," a 1961 chiller by Jack Clayton, starring Deborah Kerr and Michael Redgrave.

The first-rate thriller, based on Henry James' "The Turn of the Screw" cast Kerr as a governess haunted by ghosts of children who may or may not be real.

The film is cited for its subtle horror, with its chills achieved, not by in-your-face shocks, but by nuances and indirections, which turn out to be scarier, because they play on viewers' imagined fears—and they are legion!

Victims

"Murders in the Rue Morgue" was scary stuff because it centered on the clue dividing line between real and unreal, as it told Edgar Allan Poe's story about actors in a Grand Guignol-type theatre who suddenly become victims of real-life murders.

Alfred Hitchcock's movies were also cited, with special mention going to "Spellbound," "The Man Who Knew Too Much" and "Vertigo."

"Spellbound" was especially scary because it involved abnormal psychology and Dali-esque dream sequences.

"The Man Who Knew Too Much" freaked its proponents out due to its heart-pounding suspense, and because its story involved a young girl who was kidnapped to prevent her parents from revealing what they knew about an assassination plot.

H.A.R. Terrifying sequences in "The Exorcist."

And "Vertigo" is a haunting, dream-like thriller that casts James Stewart as a retired police detective who's afraid of heights. He's lured by an old school chum to keep an eye on his wife (Kim Novak), but ends up falling in love with her....with expectedly dark and dangerous consequences.

Mental deterioration

Roman Polanski's "Repulsion" is an exceptional psychological thriller that depicts the mental deterioration of a sexually repressed girl (Catherine Deneuve) who's left alone in her sister's apartment for days on end. No ghosts here, but the unfortunate young woman's phantasies turn out to be more terrifying than the bloodiest Halloween ghoul.

On the local film scene, many horror stories have been produced, but most of them have been overwrought and hysterically shrill.

One exception is Jerry de Leon's "Healing Ho sa Bangin," which was authentically spooky. And, some years ago, Joey Romero directed Ilonkeri Soriano in "Vampira," an underrated film that really scared the socks off viewers.

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SATURDAY Special

Musical Stars sparkle in reworked revivals

By Rito P. Asilo

EDDY TUR PUGH, WE WERE PLEASANTLY surprised to see Lani Misalucha's self-titled latest album unconventionally displayed in record bins. Like Nora Aunor, the much-missed, now Las Vegas-based pop diva may have left the country for greener pastures almost, but successors of her long-burning vocal chemistry and performing savvy still linger. The Nightingale's 14-track collection of reworked classic music fuses separation pangs.

Identity

Get ready, though. It's ironic for Lani to have reached the peak of her career in life in of industry without no-original breakaway hit single to her credit. Not her own: She's best remembered for her show-stopping renditions of "You Don't Have to Say You Love Me," "Somebody Knows Like Me," and Minnie Ripperton's "Loving You."

But being a great vocalist hasn't hurt Kim much in her musical identity: In fact, over the hounds of "Ang Ilo ng Buhay" have "found" pages for them—and commercial appeal—only after she started TV stints.

In her latest collection, recorded during her recent short visit, Misalucha once again demonstrates her knack for revivals. But, this time, with the able support of reputable arrangers Ecoon Ocampo, Ito Rapadas, Manny Quierido, Brian Cua, Fred Garcia and Arnold Bustad, she chooses the "less is more" mantra, and delivers an uncharacteristically sedate collection that boasts of less schmaltz and bravado—and more heart.

In Lionel Luden's "Love Me Again," Cuesta Boyet Supre and Melissa Manchester's "Come to Your Senses" and Lloyd Michael's "Very Special Love," she glides effortlessly from one vocal placement to another. Jay Durlan and soloist Roan's rock ballad, "These Dreams," or a cozy, jazzy number, while Ito Rapadas manages to give Angela Bofill and Gino Vannelli's "I Just Wanna Stop" and Jacqueline Bibby "Never Know Love Like This Before" fresh new grooves.

Bravura singing style

Bravura of Neil Temperson's "Always and Forever," Stevie Wonder's "All in Love Is Fair" (with Sonny Cunanan's notable guitar licks), and Natalie Cole's "I Live for Your Love" won't disappoint followers who expect the singer's famous bravura singing style.

The selection's best track, however, is Rod Temperton, and Alan and Marilyn Bergman's mesmerizing "Someone in the Dark" (which Michael Jackson sounded for Steven Spielberg's "E.T., The Extra-Terrestrial" in 1982).

Just as powerfully as Lani's emotive ability can reverberate through a listener's soul, the simplicity and power of this song's lyrics and melody can touch another organ:

"When someone in the dark reaches out to you/ And touches off a spark that comes shining through/ It tells you never be afraid/ That somewhere in your heart you can find the glow/ A light to keep you warm when the night winds blow .../ Whenever you may be/ I'll look up and see/ Someone in the dark for me."

Another love to honor that caught our attention was "Broken," that sting. Orchestrated beautifully and with tears of Robert Jaña and Lucy Alvarez, who sing together in search of their own cracks.

But a change, the emotion featured in the selection are not American pop standards. Instead, the versatile pair revisits the timeless classics of Lani Gilberto, Tito Asensio, Ernani Cuenco, Jose Silos Jr. and Antonio Marquez—a refreshing choice of repertoire. Each songs gets a contemporary tweak by the album's musical arranger, Mel Villena.

"Bare ang Mahal Ko," for instance, becomes a bossa nova-inspired ditty, and "Mo, natatakot, kinasanin" a groove-driven number. But, some tunes, while well-intentioned, sound disjointed... particularly the second Tagalized version of "Kung Ako'y Mag-isaaww." Irritating as out of place rap and hip-hop verses from Salbakuta's Rom and Gab Lobo-sia's attempts at being dembrows, rap and R&B in her "Ikot" Kindergarten" album were more successful.)

Chemistry

Other duets in "Kung ang Mahal Ko" and the first version of "Kung Ako'y Mag-isaaww," Robert and Lucy's palpable chemistry is even more evident in Jessie Dotollo's radio-friendly composition, "Umiang Buhay"—seeing that features an impressive vocal interplay.

Lucy sings solo in Ogie Catalputi and Jose Javier Reyes' "Ang Mahinlo Ka," while Robert delivers an impassioned version of Cuenco and Celeste's "Bakit sa Ilagita."

But, the album's best cut is Eraso Ilaw's "Kahit Isang Araw Kahlaw?." Re joins Jessa duet from the by stage musical, "Magsimula Ka," where Lucy and Robert first met.

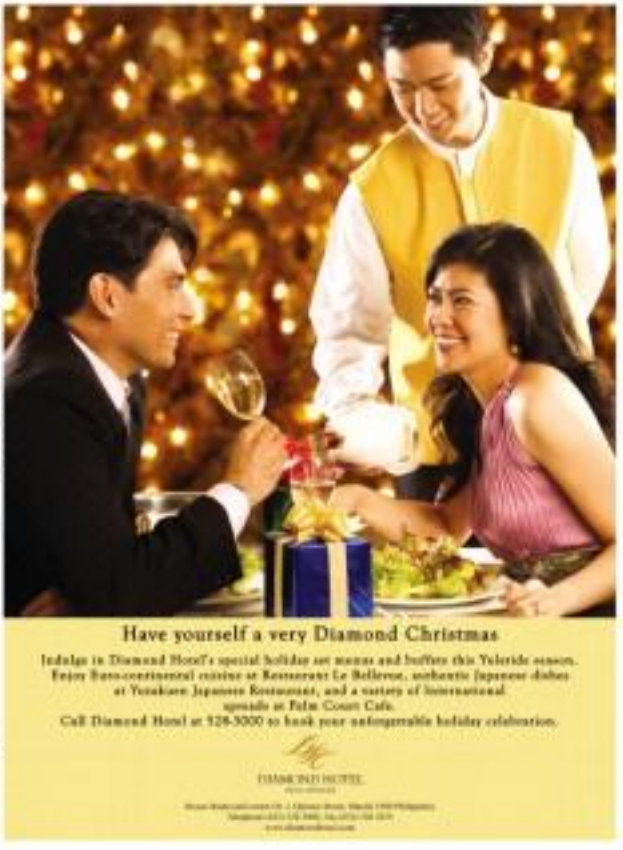
Were done the creative songs reworked in the album, we commend the collection for showcasing the strong, crystal clean talent of Alvarez.

As for his part, Robert is at his best when he relaxes his soaring vibrato and, instead of pushing his effort and "performing" them, just sings his songs from the heart.

Robert and Lucy's album, "Love You, Hate You, Love You," will have two final performances at the Teatrino in Greenhills on Nov. 9 and 10 at 8:30 p.m. Call (906.661.3000.)

ALVAREZ AND SENA. Refreshing chemistry/reporters.

HIRAISHI (TOP), ALVAREZ AND SENA (LEFT). Dynamic trio.



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Cinemanila announces competition entries

By Rumsan Bayron

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The film follows the exploits of young recruits in Afghanistan as they fight the mujahideen.

'Climates'

Dir. Nuri Ceylan

The movie revolves around a divorce and his younger and his younger, self-involved wife.

'Citizen Dog'

Dir. Wisit Sasanatieng

A surrealistic story set in contemporary Bangkok, where a carefree boy falls in love with an anemic girl.

'Everlasting Regret'

Dir. Stanley Kwan

Based on the novel, 'Changhen Ge,' Kwan's latest picture follows a legendary beauty from her glamorous days in Shanghai to her complex later life as she struggles to preserve the dignity of her past.

'Harimau'

Dir. Lee Kwar

The story of a gentle human being whose quiet life is changed by circumstances that plunge him into deliberate crimes, shattering his view of the world and his faith in men.

'It's Only Talk'

Dir. Rolando Rondo

Pablo (his real-life son) is an unemployed, drug-addicted, alcoholic who's being treated for manic depression.

'Kaleidoscope'

Dir. Jeffrey Jetamco

Amy is an aging hockey hallweaker that collected other guys shoes but she's also into collecting lives, avoiding the police, and finding her family in the underworld. Amy is the only person in her possession life—including the recent death of her son.

'Sympathy for Lady Vengeance'

Dir. Park Chan-wook

A story betrayed by his colleagues prepares his revenge.

'The Wind that Shakes the Barley'

Dir. Ken Loach

Ireland, 1920. Damien (Cillian Murphy) and Teddy are brothers fighting side by side until it comes to signed. Treaty is achieved, but is short-lived. When England proposes an unlikely treaty, war resumes, this time pitting brothers against brothers—and brothers against brothers.

The Eighth Cinemanila international film festival opened yesterday and runs until Nov. 15 at the Greenbelt 3 and 4 Cinemas, Glorietta 4 Digital cinemas, and the UCCP Auditorium in Intramuros, Manila.

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Betty Hutton survives fall from grace

By Bebs Cervantes

BETTY HUTTON WAS BORN ELIZABETH Thornburg on Feb. 26, 1921, in Battle Creek, Michigan. She and her sister, Marion, were abandoned by their railroad worker father when Betty was only two years old.

The young girls were made to entertain patrons with song and dance numbers from that period. The rubber-limy was over the audience, because of her energetic performance and original style.

Big bands

At the tender age of 13, Betty was already singing with big bands in Detroit. At 15, she gave Broadway a try, but she was told she would never make it...not with her looks and style. She went home disappointed, and decided to sing again with her sister as a duo. The pair was soon noticed by a band leader named Vincent Lopez, who signed Betty and Marion on the spot.

Later, Hutton was noticed by Glenn Miller because of her girl-next-door appeal. The tomb-faced leader, however, found Betty's aggressive sweet-style eye difficult to handle. So, he decided to leave only Marion.

Luckily, Broadway success came to the feisty blonde in 1940 when she shone in "Two for the Show." That triumph was followed by another sterling performance in "Panama Hattie." Soon, Hollywood noticed her. She had appeared in earlier movies as Betty Jane Boyce and Betty Dowling.) Broadway appreciated Hutton for her vibrant personality and originality.

Hits

She became a popular musical comedy star in such hits as "The Host's It," "Incendiary Blonde" and "The Perils of Pauline." Onscreen, she was bouncy and funny.

But, Hollywood soon found out that she had a mind of her own—she left Columbia Records for RCA over a disagreement about the terms of her contract.

She replaced the troubled Judy Garland in "Annie Get Your Gun," a plum role. Everyone expected her to reach the zenith of stardom, but in 1952, she fought with her mother studio, and was unceremoniously fired.

Unable to find employment, she turned to alcohol and drugs. Eventually, she remarried suicide and suffered a nervous breakdown. She disappeared from the entertainment scene for years.

HUTTON: A child of her own.

Absence

But, Betty's talent was recognized by her peers. In, despite the absence of movie offers, the actress appeared [illegible] on Ed Sullivan's "Toast of the Town," "The Dinah Shore Show" and "The Hit Ring Cole Show."

Hutton continued to be emotionally unstable for many years, but by a stroke of good fortune, she was befriended by a priest who offered her solace and relative peace.

After that, she fought acting in California schools, and shared with her students her colorful experiences and substantial knowledge of the legitimate stage and film. Betty now leads a quiet life—a grand survivor of the tumor-called Hollywood.

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AT THE CINEMAS

G1	1 THE GRUDGE 2	2 THE MARINE	3 BOX	4 KALDEDO			
G4	1 CLOSED FOR RENOVATION	2 CLOSED FOR RENOVATION	3 CLOSED FOR RENOVATION				
	4 MARIE ANTOINETTE	5 CASE	6 THE MARINE	7 THE PRESTIGE			
GB1	1 THE PRESTIGE	2 THE MARINE					
GB3	1 THE PRESTIGE	2 THE MARINE					
	3 THE GRUDGE 2	4 MARIE ANTOINETTE	5 CLOSED FOR RENOVATION				
ATC	1 THE MARINE	2 CASE					
	3 THE PRESTIGE	4 WORLD TRADE CENTER	5 THE GRUDGE 2				
ACC	1 THE DARKNESS	2 BEYOND BORDERS	3 BARNYARD	4 TELL NO ONE			
M2	1 THE MARINE	2 BOX					
	3 KALDEDO	4 THE GRUDGE 2	5 CLOSED FOR RENOVATION				

At the Activity Center

GLORIETTA	GREENBELT TOWN CENTER
Art in Bronze on the Spot Contest October 29, 2006	MacCanta Halloween Event October 28, 2006
ATALA CENTER CEBU	MARKET! MARKET!
Halloween Party! October 31, 2006	Halloween Revival October 31, 2006

The Floating Kidding October 29 to November 1, 2006

Christian Bautista
Repertory Philippines presents Walt Disney's ALADDIN JR. at REP's Onstar Theater - October 5 to 29, 2006

Ayala Museum
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No Commercial Break!
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Ayala Malls Glorietta
November 5, Sunday
Noon Plaza, 4pm
Greenbelt Activity Center
Pavilion Mall
November 26, Sunday
Bridgetown, 4pm

Cinema as therapy

By Nestor U. Torre

PEOPLE GO TO THE MOVIES for all sorts of reasons, not the least of which is to escape reality—or the humid weather as the case may be.

More positively, some cinema-lovers narrate films because they gratify their specific needs, wants or longings.

We asked our filmmakers for people to watch films to their need to: find inspiration or surmount frustration; problematic attitudes or situations, or to make up for a lack in their lives.

Different moods

It is this use of cinema as therapy that drew his psychologist Nancy Drake and friends Vito Sarao and Jessie Cabrera to consult with their eye-opening book, "Cinematherapy." They link films to different moods or emotions already, the better to guide readers/viewers to more quickly satisfy their specific "therapy" objectives.

Want to have a really good, cinematherapeutic cry to get the misery out of your system? Try viewing "Ben's Price," "Love Story," "Dancerlies are Free" and "Marvin's Room."

At the mood for dysfunctional romances to help you get over a stupid and ill-fated love affair? "Wuthering Heights," "Leaving Las Vegas," "American Gigolo," "Spellbound," "Fanny Girl" and "The Postman Always Rings Twice" could be just what the cinematic psychologist ordered.

Movie-goers in search of gruesome pastimes could find their own psychic soul-ce vocation therapy. Is it "Out of Africa," "Belle du Jour," "Roman Holiday," "The Big Easy," "Beyond Rangoon," "Breakfast at Tiffany's," "The Bigfoot Wives," "Notion Place," "Enchanted April" and "Desperately Seeking Susan."

Troubled relationship

If you're in a troubled relationship with your mother, make a beeline for "The Glass Menagerie" (but, of course), "Diamonds from the Sidps," "Terms of Endearment," "Night, Mother," "This a My Life," "Terms Clubarna," "Saturday Sisters" and "Mommie Dearest."

Want to make over your significant other? Get pointers (or ewe) from "Pygmalion," "Dr. Dolittle Pic-nations," "Making Mr. Right," "The Best Years of Our Lives," "Four Weddings and a Funeral," "Coming Home" and "The King and I."

If you're an office drudge and are looking for an empowering movie—or at least, a cinematic day off—groove to "Nine to Five," "Silkwood," "Working Girl," "It Do Fit," "Billy Bostit, "Woman of the Year," "Mama Rose," "Private Consumer" and "A Star is Born."

"FOUR WEDDINGS AND A FUNERAL." Make-over movie.

Are you having a bad hair day, literally or figuratively? Get a psychic shampoo with "Hairspray," "Whipping Up Bully," "Movie," "The Truth About Cats and Dogs," "White Palace," "Blue Day," "My Hair Lady" and "While You Were Shopping."

Vengeance

If you've just been dumped and feel like one, big bruise, seek filmic vengeance with "The War of the Roses," "Shirley," "Body Heat," "Enchanted," "Shakespeare," "What's Love Got to Do with It?," "Women on the Verge of a Nervous Breakdown"—and "Misery."

At the other end of the Cinemascope rainbow are movies with "and they lived happily ever after" endings. Get a happy high from "Hitchcock" in the form, "I Remember Clive Wight," "When a Man Loves a Woman," "When Harry Met Sally," "Shakespeare in Seattle" and "It's a Wonderful Life" (how truly wonderful).

...Shall we quit while we're ahead? Enjoy.

Natural remedies

SIMPLE REMEDIES FOR 100 COMMON ailments are listed in a small book, "Natural Remedies," by Jeanette L. Sudores. The prescriptions range from herbal tea to massage and other natural remedies. Here are some tips:

• Acne—Rub slightly warm castor oil on affected areas in the morning and before sleeping. Regular procedure until symptoms disappear. Washed (not excessive soap) and oil-rinsed facial aide for 20 minutes may also be effective.

Before meals

• Asthma—Drink garlic tea six times a day. Take two garlic pearls before meals. At bedtime, apply boiled onions wrapped in cotton cloth to the soles of the feet. Leave overnight.

LOTUS POND

R. Valencia and S. Bernardo

Drink carrot juice daily.

• Bad breath—Take a glass of lemon juice mixed with warm water upon rising in the morning. Gargle a pomelo and drink the rest.

• Baldness—Massage warm olive, castor or sesame oil into the scalp twice a week. Wrap head in a hot towel, and leave it for an hour. Lather with natural shampoo. Take a tablet each of vitamin B complex and vitamin E after every meal.

• Boils—Apply natural vinegar or apple cider vinegar immediately.

• Backbone—Make a face pack by mixing cooked oatmeal, table salt and lemon juice, and leave on the face for half a day. The mixture will have blackheads out and clear the pores. Other cleansers are: Fresh cucumber juice, lemon juice and honey.

• Blurred feet—Massage garlic oil on the soles.

Painful

• Canker sores—Rub a pinch of powdered alum on the sore. This is painful, but relief is almost instantaneous. Take natural vitamin B three times a day. Avoid white flour and sugar.

• Colds—Take vitamin C. Drink lemon juice sweetened with honey four times a day.

• Dandruff—Massage olive or coconut oil into scalp for 30 minutes. Cover with shiny cap. Let for 30 minutes. Wash with natural shampoo. Take 30 mg of zinc tablet daily.

Happy healing, everyone!

EVA Green romances Daniel Craig (as James Bond) in "Casino Royale."

SATURDAY Special

Female comers gear up for stardom

RAMSEY Actress lead mate in "The Covenant."

By Nestor U. Torre

EVERY FILM SEASON, NEW FILM actresses are given their big breaks on the silver screen, acting opposite bankable male leads or being featured in major productions. This year, the most eye-catching female comers include:

2 for investment

Eva Green and Caterina Murino, the new Bond girls who are acting opposite Daniel Craig's James Bond in "Casino Royale." The 21st installment in the hit film franchise is based on Ian Fleming's first Agent 007 book, the story of which has never been told "accurately" on film until now.

In 1967, it was done as a spoof starring Peter Sellers, Ursula Andress, David Niven, Orson Welles and Woody Allen, among others.)

The fact that the Bond series' first novel recounts the creation of the world's most famous secret agent makes it the right vehicle to introduce the franchise's latest Bond, Daniel Craig.

It also provides an attention-calling showcase for French actress Eva Green, who is cast as Vesper Lynd, an enigmatic beauty who steals the heart of the seemingly-unemotional Bond.

Green made her film debut in Bernardo Bertolucci's steamy 2003 drama, "The Dreamers," but her pivotal role in "Casino Royale" is her best bet for international stardom to date.

High price

For her part, Indian actress Caterina Murino plays Solange, the beautiful but unhappy wife of Dimitrios, the cold-blooded right-hand man of the movie's top villain, Chiffre. When Solange turns figure 007, she gets back at her husband by blasting off with Bond—and she pays a high price for it.

In "The Covenant," the young leading lady is Laura Ramsey. Fresh out of high school, she broke into show business in 2004 on the TV series, "The Days."

Film roles followed in "Lords of Dogtown," "Crash Pad LL" "She's the Man" and "Poseidon." Now, Ramsey achieves star status opposite "Sky Highs" Steven Strait in "The Covenant," a tale of four young students with paranormal powers.

Ramsey plays the new girl in a school for male students, and she has a hard time keeping up with her peers—until Strait's character gives her the psychic boost she needs.

In "The Marine," starring wrestling champion John Cena, Kelly Carlson plays his wife, Kate, who's kidnapped by a gang led by a ruthless criminal (actor) Sonny Dodson Pierrick).

CARLSON Plays John Cena's wife in "The Marine."

CRAIG "Stunned" by Caterina Murino, his other main squeeze in the latest Bond film.

Only at Watsons your personal store

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Biore Whitening Facial Foam 50ml* 2 for ₱150

Eskinol Orange Fresh Facial Wash 100ml* 2 for ₱150

Watsons Cracked Heel Cream 25g 2 for ₱ 249

Watsons Men's Facial Wash / Scrub 100ml* 2 for ₱150

Body Treats Hand Soap 750ml Watermelon / Melon / Citrus / Magnolia 2 for ₱169

Lipostrate Virgin Coconut Hot Oil 500g 2 for ₱189

Hair Treats Hair Shine 60ml 2 for ₱ 139

Golden Fabulous Hot Oil Treatment 250g* Coco / Ginseng / Keratin 2 for ₱150

Silk Secrets Milk Exfoliating Body Scrub 200g* 2 for ₱150

Hair Treats Hot Oil Jar 650g 2 for ₱225

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A. LIPIN — BY ZOD ABREN

BABY BLUES — BY JERRY SCOTT

PUGAD BABOY — BY PAL JUNIOR

NUTTS — BY PATRICK HUDDLESTON

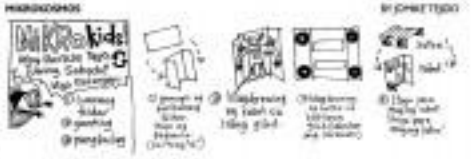
LOVEWHOTS — BY ELIZABETH CHONGUO

ATOMIC AND WEDDY — BY LYNN GARCELLANO

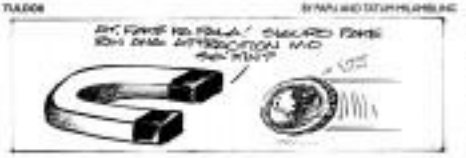
DIVINE COMEDY — BY STEVEN PAVLOVIC

RIKO MACHINE — BY RIKO ABREN

MAGNOSAURUS — BY JONAS TEJADA



TULDOK — BY PAPU AND DATUIN PALANGLANG

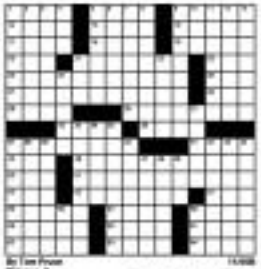


BEN — BY DANIEL SHELTON

DAILY CROSSWORD

ACROSS
1 "Big Trouble" author
5 Tyrannical pitchers
9 "A Bellyful" theatrical
11 Turkish title
12 Turkish drink
13 Freebie
14 Parts of speech
15 Sheep sound
16 NEJ in the future
17 Stockboard
18 "Shall go on all night"
21 Beholding
23 High-wattagers
24 "Land" title
25 Long
27 Cruises
28 Mesmerizing
29 Mandates
30 Mess in the kitchen
31 Bangs
32 Something new
34 Metropolitan
36 Movie critic's
37 Lyric
38 Lawrence" role
40 Biker division
41 Worker inside
43 2000 Olympic cyclist
45 Big-time sports
46 Ultimatum
47 Verne title
48 Advanced work, for short
51 Old Peruvian
52 Collectible
54 Something to get "round"
55 Roulette
56 Museum
61 "Uncle's..." Ben Stein column
62 Creative current
64 Words of realization

DOWN
1 Surrounds
2 Good morning, Pierre
3 Head shortly?
4 MSNBC rival
5 Code of "The Maltese Falcon"
6 Newsman Cronkite
7 Jacksonville pitchers
8 Occupies
9 Son of Selina Kyle
10 Talk over coffee
11 Eating disorder
12 Goodbye in a cantina
13 Hits
21 The detective Vronsky
22 Chichen Itza's, e.g.
26 Open contracts
27 South African apartheid
33 "Who's afraid of Virginia Woolf?" Tony winner
34 Chestnut
35 Multiplying by three
37 Scorecards, poker tag
39 Long-gun sub
42 "Old Testament Crown Affair" songwriter
43 John of "SNL"
44 Monitoring
45 Of the groin



HOROSCOPE

TOO SOON TODAY: You have a lot of common sense (which don't go overboard). You're witty, charming and entertaining when you want to be. Sometimes you're not very subtle. Sometimes you're not very tactful. Sometimes you're not very considerate. Sometimes others are downright irritated by you. You're very generous. Expect some key changes this year, perhaps as significant as 1956.

Birthdays of Laura Bill Kuhl, film lady; Sean "P. Diddy" Combs, the late artist Matthew McConaughey, actor.

ARIES (March 21 to April 19). Your love life is more about seeing and listening than speaking. Intelligence might be the sexiest thing in the universe.

This is happening because of tomorrow's Full Moon. So, next week, you'll be much better.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20). Impressing people and getting them to like you is a matter of friendship, in many cases. That's because everyone's out there in survival mode. Be kind to them.

Tomorrow's Full Moon is your cue to do something for you, for a change. When you can, pursue your dreams.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20). Ignore the comments of others. Listen to your own voice, especially your quiet, reasonable voice. Be confident and kindhearted, and you'll get your way today. (This is good in 24 hours.)

CANCER (June 21 to July 22). Be extra careful with friends today. Tomorrow's Full Moon could cause some fun. Just in all your dealings with authoritarians and group members today. After the Moon peaks, this person takes over.

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22). Be polite and considerate, and you'll get your way. Be confident and quiet, and you'll get your way. Be confident and quiet, and you'll get your way. Be confident and quiet, and you'll get your way.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22). Avoid your lover and relatives. Your partner views self-pity as a sign of weakness. Tomorrow's Full Moon peaks. (Emotions are out.)

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22). Think about what you can and what you don't. Tomorrow's Full Moon is triggering this response in you. It will fade after the Moon peaks.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21). Relations with partners are stressful. Be careful with your money because tomorrow's Full Moon triggers your spending habits. This is the time to be aware of your irresponsible guilt-driven pressure.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21). Be careful with people in the medical field or in positions of authority. Relations between romantic lovers and friends will be difficult and fully stressful.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19). Don't worry if you feel insecure about abilities or intellectual capacity. Tomorrow's Full Moon is tantamount to a test. It will disappear in 48 hours.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18). Tomorrow's Full Moon is not a good time to talk to lovers, parents and authority figures. Be careful and tomorrow you'll discover a new dimension.

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20). You might feel like your freedom is being restricted. Tomorrow's Full Moon is a time of search and renewal. Your goal is to keep your options open.

CONCEPTIS SU DOKU

Conceptis Sudoku — by Dave Green

	9				7	1		
4			8			3		2
		6						
	7	2	9				8	
	3				2	9	1	
					3			
3		8		5				4
		9	1				5	

Difficulty Level ★★★★

HOW TO PLAY SU DOKU

Fill the grid so that every column, every row and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9.

Tips and programs at www.sudoku.com

Answers to previous puzzle

4	9	2	6	8	7	3	1	5
5	1	8	7	3	5	9	6	2
3	6	5	2	4	1	7	9	8
7	5	6	9	2	4	1	8	3
8	1	9	5	3	6	2	4	7
2	3	4	7	1	8	5	3	9
1	2	8	1	9	3	4	7	6
9	7	1	4	6	5	8	2	3
6	4	3	8	7	2	6	5	1

Difficulty Level ★★★★

Outstanding women

STREET SMART

Melody Navarrete

THE OUTSTANDING Women in the Nation's Service (TOWNS) foundation celebrated its Third National TOWNS Week from Oct. 15-21.

The group, its collaborators with other civic organizations, sponsored a series of activities to celebrate the event. TOWNS Awards 2007 was launched at the Rotary Rotary Museum in Intramuros, where one of its members, Nenita Ang-Ging, holds office.

Concern

This triennial activity aims to honor women 40 years and below from all walks of life who have contributed to nation-building. It chooses the best among Filipino women who stand for truth, knowledge, peace, understanding, and concern for the environment and humanity.

There have been 128 awardees during the group's first 21 years. They "faithfully dedicate their lives to the belief that every Filipina is undoubtedly outstanding."

Thankful

President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo is thankful to TOWNS for supporting her administration's thrust to encourage Filipinos to reach for their dreams by being heroes in their communities.

Awardees include the likes of Vilma Cruz, Dina Pearlman, Julia Sta Ana, Fina Jimenez-Tuvid, Lorna Kapunan, Evelyn R. Singson, Vanessa Ville, Pompoi Ferrer and Ofie Ofer Gutierrez.

Email: [illegible] or call 899-1767

SINGSON, GUTIERREZ AND VILLAR. Three of (1)TOWNS awardees to date.

Unintentional humor in action flick

By Nestor Torre

JOHN CENA'S DEBUT FILM, "The Marine," runs like a wrestling match. Aside from the fact that everything in it is ridiculously fake, the guy with the monstrously big biceps wins.

Cena plays John Triton, a marine who gets disobedient and following a direct order. When the movie opens, we see him wrestling outside an al-Qaeda building in Iraq, the disobeys an order to wait for reinforcements, charges in, and sprays everybody with bullets.

The hostages manage to roll out of the way. The good guys don't get a single scratch, and the bad guys all miss. Strange.

Disbelief

After that scene is over, and you find yourself thinking in disbelief, take heart, there are other scenes ahead. The film, in fact, doesn't work as an action movie, but it'll give you a few good laughs here and there. Whether its makers really wanted this reaction from you, however, is another.

The bad guy in this action caper is played by Robert Patrick, who looks like he's having fun, at least. He delivers the required line with enough panache to fool you into believing that it's the best line you've ever heard. It isn't, of course—but, hey, he gets credit for trying!

He certainly has a more compelling screen presence than the bulky Cena, who, you'll notice pronunciation because he's just one big ex-ignore. His size may work well in the ring, but it looks awkward on the big screen. Watching him run away from an explosion is the most hilarious thing. And there are a lot of

CENA. Too big to ignore.

Tours, Leisure & Chow

Where to Stop Where to GO

A weekly directory of the country's best establishments

Waterfront launches a new hotel concept in Manila

WATERFRONT HOTELS AND CASINOS, THE biggest Filipino-owned and -managed five-star hotel chain in the country added a new hotel concept in its brood of properties. Waterfront Philippines Inc. just signed on a contract to own and manage G Hotel Manila, which is owned and designed by renowned architect Gerry Concepcion. A boutique hotel at the heart of busy Manila, G Hotel will surely make a stir when it opens to the public on Nov. 16.

G Hotel Manila by Waterfront is elegantly designed with plush, but comfortable interior stylist black and white interior design at the lobby, and a luxury cubicle color hues in all of its rooms, which includes the Waterfront signature design elements that are clean and modern, yet infused with a dash of Filipino touch that account for the room's over-all relaxed and stylish ambiance. Comprised of 101 rooms and forty deluxe rooms, G Hotel Manila by Waterfront offers a sweet-four hour personalized butler service.

G Hotel Manila is under the corporate management group of Waterfront Hotels and Casinos. It will apply the same fully integrated hotel system with the use of Opera, for property management system (front office) and marketing (sales and catering.) Thus, Waterfront's food and Beverage menu will continue to showcase its homegrown culinary with G Hotel's interior lifestyle concept coffee shop, Cafe Noir offering an Asian fusion cuisine and Mango, the lunch eatery pool bar.

Waterfront Philippines Inc is the country's largest Filipino-owned and managed first class hotel chain. It is the only hotel chain in the country that has presence in the key cities of the country. In Manila, it operates the Manila Pavilion Hotel and Casino and very soon G Hotel Manila by Waterfront, in Cebu it operates the Waterfront Cebu City Hotel and Casino and the Waterfront Airport Hotel and Casino Mactan, while in Davao it is represented by the Waterfront Insular Hotel Davao. Collectively, the company operates close to 1000 rooms, employs 1500 employees, and has over 41,399 square meters of convention and gaming space. It houses the country's largest gaming facilities.

For inquiries and reservations, please contact 667-8000 or e-mail rsvn@waterfronthotels.com.ph, g.hotel@waterfronthotels.com.

Mozart at The Tivoli

IN CELEBRATION OF Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart's 250th birthday anniversary, Masberia Oriental's signature fine-dining restaurant The Tivoli embarks on an Austrian culinary promotion titled "Mozart at The Tivoli - The Genius' Favourite Dishes" on Nov. 6 to 19, featuring guest chefs Jan Axel Wyld from the city of Zum Bierhaeuschen, a countryside restaurant and hotel in Gräfelfing Village in Salzburg.

GUEST Austrian chef Ivonne Fritz Buergler of Zum Bierhaeuschen

The two-week culinary promotion held with the support of Qatar Airways, will showcase a glimpse of Mozart's gastronomic preferences which will be presented for lunch and dinner in a special a la carte menu of six appetizers, two soups, eight main courses, and three desserts. Specially crafted for the occasion, the dinner includes some of chef Ivonne Buergler's game food specialties which are traditionally served in the hunting season: Pink roasted rabbit loin on autumn leaves with forest mushrooms and fruit segments in red currant sauce; Duo of pike in dill foam with lime caviar; Consommé of "Schlegeln" with vegetable julienne, dove, semolina dumplings and thyme; Roasted dove loin in juniper berry cream with forest mushrooms, apple and red cabbage; Farmers' lunch with bacon and cranberry jelly; Repeat of calf's liver and cepe mushrooms in herb cream sauce with "spaetzle"; Roasted sprouts and ginger around fruit jelly; and Deep-fried Austrian yeast dumplings with white wine sabayon and dried currants, among others.

A pike wine-dinner night dubbed "Saint Martin's Goose" on Nov. 11 at 6:30 p.m. - an Austrian tradition in honor of Saint Martin of Tours falls known as Saint Martin's Day or Martinigans, justifies an impressive six-course menu at P2,450++.

Chef Ivonne Fritz of Zum Bierhaeuschen – a 56-room countryside hotel nearly ten with a 180-seater specialty restaurant, is a seasoned veteran of several culinary competitions and promotional guest chef appearances in Austria and abroad. She was also a world-class professional chef in the early 1970's, as an entrepreneur, as tourmaster, in-charge of meat, fish and seafood purchasing and preparations at the Hotel Schloss Pecorara in the Italienne, where she received an Gault Millau award as chef de partie at the Hyatt Regency in Atlanta, Georgia, the Hilton Hotel in Hilton, Head Island, and at the Seaside Blue Mussel, Florida.

The Tivoli is open daily for dinner, and from Monday to Friday for lunch. For reservations and enquiries, call The Tivoli at 750-8888 extension 2411/2431.

FRANKA, THE BELLEVUE'S CAKE OF THE MONTH

A unique and truly delightful dessert is in store for Bellevue guests during the month of November. Pistilio is a frosted and spiced cheesecake reminiscent of the Italian Cassata ice Cream, a rich and flavourful dessert to end perfect meals. For inquiries, call 891-8484.

Think happy thoughts this November at Dusit Hotel

LETTING YOURSELF LOOSE TO summer cheer against the season's backdrop is a conventional luxury which is dusit, this year before it is true we feel better, with more indulgence.

This is a difference that inspired Dusit Hotel Nikko's culinary team to create something new with the risk proper to delight... to make privileges.

On the special occasion the month of November.

Dusit Nov. 1 to 15, Wandering Heart' This romance pursuit, "Lucky Birthday", an special "this spiritual tradition wherein fresh fruit 'beginning' into the stars during the 1st full moon of November to mark off last look. Beginning's chef has will feature the 1st time debut exclusively in consummate the Thai tradition by way of discovering cuisine from Thailand's romantic region.

The Café has become a local luxury paradise with its daily 'Dessert Buffet' offering the widest selection in Subic. For Thanksgiving Day on Nov. 30, The Café will offer turkey at the carving station for lunch and dinner.

Here your fill on today's luxurious friends Japanese then specials prepared by Dusit's seasoned chef Yukiki Tsukiyama. The November Gastronomic set only P2,500 ++ for a complete of four delicacies with the choice of Nikko Cuisine for only P1,500 ++.

The month of November, Club Square of Thirty Dining Restaurant ambiance has prepared a sumptuous Thanksgiving Day offer a dynamic menu for a healthier dining experience.

At part of the usual Noche Buena menu, Pistachio Mapel Coffee Thirst Is rewards'. It will be offered as a special menu item for November.

As an added treat for large groups dining at Nikko Hotel Manila Bay before the end of December 2006, Dusit Nikko Mapel will give a complimentary Lechon Baboy (roast pig) for every dinner dining with a minimum guarantee of P1,000.

For inquiries and dining reservations, call Dusit Hotel Nikko at 887-2233.

People, Events & Products

JBU, ST. LUKE'S MEDICAL CENTER TIE-UP

Jose Rizal University (JBU), the university that carves about good education, recently signed a memorandum of agreement with the St. Luke's Medical Center as an affiliate school in the pursuance of St. Luke's vision of "Quality Education Through Partnership with Nursing Schools". St. Luke's which will be celebrating its 103rd anniversary this month, initiated the project. It is the hospital's contribution in providing quality education for nursing students. This affiliation is in aid to the chronic shortage of the nursing profession in the Philippines. Seated (from left) Dr. Armand V. Fabella, chair of the Board; JBU Dr. Jovan R. Canning, medical director; St. Luke's; Dr. Vicente K. Fabella, president; JBU Jun Alpino Jr., dean of the Nursing School; JBU. Back (from left) Fe Corazon Ramos-Mak, VP, human resources division, St. Luke's; Alan Wilhelmina I. Nera, dean, college division; JBU; Doris Orejana; Marinela K. Fabella; Isabelita Regalado, M&M, vice president for nursing services, St. Luke's.

Pandesal: The Quintessential Pinoy Fare

MOST OF YOU, I'M SURE'S BEST WISH IS BEING POPular than the ubiquitous pandesal as the favorite Pinoy food. Whether it's enjoyed for breakfast or merienda, the humble pandesal has always been around to satisfy anyone's hunger pangs. It therefore comes as no surprise that Filipinos observe Pandesal Festival. That's because the fresh, oven-baked aroma of pandesal, a popular favorite among children, is captured and perfected by Gardenia. Gardenia Pandesal bundle is your usual morning breakfast and afternoon merienda into a truly tasty and nutritious treat because Gardenia Pandesal is enriched by being "Made so Soogy, Made so Soulicious." This means that Gardenia Pandesal is not only tasty but highly nutritious as well since it contains vitamins and minerals like vitamin B1 to prevent fatigue and loss of appetite, vitamin B2 and B6 to boost energy metabolism, niacin help maintain a healthy body and calcium for stronger bones and teeth. Gardenia Pandesal is also enriched with folate, which is excellent for expecting women since folate reduces the risk of brain or spinal cord defects in infants. Blend Importer Gardenia Pandesal is totally free of carcinogenic like bromate. Thanks to Gardenia, the pandesal will surely remain as the consummate breakfast or merienda for centers of Filipinos for many years to come.

Beyoncé expands her stellar reach

By Meeland Tarre

WHICH JUST GOES TO SHOW that Nineteen is what she is being confronted by two members of People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (Peta), and you'll see one of the reasons why the popular icon holds the world at the palm of her hand.

A few months back, two members of the animal-rights group sat down in dressy garb the star—who though then were just her normal, pantsuit-and-jeans self—and attacked her for using fur in her clothing line, House of Dereon.

ENCHILES. One woman media enterprise.

Lecture

Beyoncé never lost her cool—she just smiled graciously throughout their lecture until somebody arrived and escorted them out.

The 25-year-old Houston native is not only talented and beautiful; she's also a professional, from the top of her camefully-combed golden locks to her manicured fingertips. This is why she was able to survive the lawsuits and the vicious gossip that followed girl group, Destiny's Child's first breakup, and not only did she endure, she triumphed—turning the whole experience into a cheerleading, Grammy-winning solo-hood ("Survivor").

Born Beyoncé Giselle Knowles, this one-woman media enterprise began performing as a very young age. In a comprehensive interview done by E! videos are shown of her cautious solo and group performances which, though still unpolished, lets us see that she was talented and charismatic from the get-go.

And though it may sound trite, success got to see that she achieved through hard work and sacrifice.

Guidance

Under the guidance of her manager father, Beyoncé has been singing and dancing since she was seven. She attended Houston's High School for the Performing and Visual Arts—and won more than 35 performing competitions!

She and cousin Kelly Rowland were members of a girl group that went on to compete on "Star Search" (though they didn't win). They spent years trying to cut a deal with a major record company. They generated a lot of interest, but never quite made it to the big time.

When they re-formed the group into Destiny's Child—which was originally a quartet composed of Beyoncé, Kelly, LaToya Luckett, and LaToya Robinson—they finally did.

Most of us recall no doubt still be familiar with Destiny's Child's rise to fame and fortune. The group not only sold a lot of records, it bagged awards, as well.

Right combination

After LaToya and LaToya unceremoniously split, the remains soldiered on, ultimately finding the right combination with Michelle Williams. Destiny's Child has become one of, if not the most successful girl groups in history.

Beyoncé, however, has always been the star. It's not only because of the way she looks or sounds; it's also because she wrote most of their songs.

Now, though there haven't been an official announcement, Destiny's Child is, more or less, over. Knowles, though, is going strong. She recently released a self-titled second solo album, which cuts no end less both low.

Meanwhile, Beyoncé is successfully creating over to be the "grooviest" one, "Dreamgirls."

An another E! show puts it: It's good to be Beyoncé!

NOW SHOWING

Soul food

By Rito P. Asis

"Kalokla" (Summer Heat)

It: Brilliante Mendoza
Is: Cherry Pie Picache, Angel Aquino, Juliana Palermo, Johnny Delgado

FUNNY HOW THESE FILMS WE see Brilliante Mendoza's second feature (after his award-winning debut film, "Masahista") last year and more about it in the Dec 24 issue of this section. Almost one year later, we watched it again—and loved the big screen version even better.

The changing of the seasons acts as backdrop to the story of three sisters (Cherry Pie Picache, Angel Aquino, Juliana Palermo) and their domineering father (Johnny Delgado).

Rich in local color and visual metaphor, Mendoza fuses the elements of sound, music and color, and delivers a haunting cinematic tone. Like his controversial first movie, every scene is meticulously staged, and possesses a lyrical quality that helps dramatize the events that take place in the story.

PICACHE. Her's is one of the year's most accomplished performances.

The production boasts of topnotch production values. Cinematography, sound, production design, editing and music—notably Jonny Boosco's contemplative rendering of the beautiful theme song, "Bahay Kubo".

We may not have liked Mendoza's second outing, "Twilight Dancers," "First Day High"), but his soulful portrayal here is still among the year's most accomplished—a contented and contained performance that further strengthens a well-crafted movie, whose power stays with you long after you leave the theaters. Don't miss it!

'Sing-Along Fiesta'

From page G1

quick-dining clothes and exactly comfortable shoes, and Columbia Sportswear's shirts, pants, jackets and footgear meet Dewa's requirements—and more.

NGC program highlights

Dr. Michael Gregoglio, Chaired, inaugurates at 9 p.m., "Discovery Asia" screens "Mother Bear," about giant honey bear in an old Sri Lankan hut tale.

Nov. 5 at 9 p.m., "Inside" focuses on the Pilo Club Championship Sepoto Cup. On Nov. 7 at 9 p.m., "Mind Labs" looks exceedingly complicated science has through riddled experiments.

Nov. 8 at 10 p.m., "Is It Real?" investigates "The Bermuda Triangle." Nov. 9 at 9 p.m., "Megastructures" focuses on "Super Chappers."

Movies on TV

On HBO, today at 7:30 p.m., "Windtalker" 11:30 p.m., "Thin Line." Tomorrow at 8:15 a.m., "Losing Isaiah." 8 p.m., "Spider-Man 2." Nov. 6 at 6:45 p.m., "So Good As It Gets." Nov. 7 at 3:30 p.m., "Wild Dog and Glory." 9 p.m., "The Life and Death of Peter Sellers." Nov. 8 at 9 p.m., "Ray." Nov. Nov. 9 p.m., "Dangerous Liaisons." Nov. 10 at 6:30 p.m., "Sleepy" 10:30 p.m., "Spanglish."

On Cinemax, today at 9 p.m., "Apt Pupil." Tomorrow at 10:30 p.m., "Cadillac Man." Nov. 6 at 12:45 a.m., "Four Rooms" 6:45 p.m., "Shrek." Nov. 7 at 10:30 a.m., "Scrooged." 3:40 p.m., "Rifle" (1980). Nov. 8 at 2:25 p.m., "Land of the Pharaohs." Nov. 9 at 3:45 p.m., "The Wild Bunch." 11:55 p.m., "The Sleepy Gulf." Nov. 10 at 11:20 p.m., "Darkha."

'Awake'

Josh Groban's new CD, "Awake," hits music stores on Nov. 7. The CD features songs variously written by Groban, Dave Matthews, Jamil Sieberg, Herbert Grönemeyer and others. They include the album's first single, "You Are Loved," as well as songs in Italian and Spanish. Other standouts include a suite of two haunting songs, where Groban harmonizes with longtime idol, Lady-smith Black Mambazo. It Groban lost his 2000's exposed as he announced shortly.

'Fun Way to ABC'

Learning the ABC has never been this much fun! Walt and friends have come up with the musical instructional video, "Walt: The Fun Way to ABC," for young learners. It includes short skits, songs and surprises featuring Walt, the friendly alligator and the delightful pals, plus Sarah Geronimo in a very special appearance. Distributed by Star Video.

'Pupics' concert at Alliw Theater

"Tropical Andi, Sayaw at Tula Para Sa Manila," a fundraising concert, will be held on Nov. 25 at Alliw Theater. Presented by the Francis Dalisay Pupics Foundation, the show features Pinky Bernad, Tuk Santos, Jay-R, Ryan Fernandez, Francis Magalona, Mary Medina Manzano and Humanic Contestes Fantasmitos.

'Sing Like a Champion'

In the new instructional video, "Sing Like a

Unintentional . . .

Photocopyright ©

explosions...all of which be awesome, of course, with scary a scratch!

The scriptwriters try to inject some humor. The blank baddie, played by Anthony Ray Parker, gets to say the funny lines. Unfortunately, they don't work all the time.

Diabolo!

The ending is off. It's not just the comic parts that have the problem—the entire movie suffers from a lagging pace. Get things out omnipresent momentum. Or we need to learn about Dennis's childhood emerging story?

Come to think of it, do we really need to hear Tristan speak at all? So, we just want to see him crash through things, dodge bullets, and run across a swamp with a big, shiny knife that a real marine would be embarrassed to carry.

MARQUEZ with (from left) Dr. James Cuseong, Lenie Cahill, Imran Er and Dr. Rara Valeria.

Champion, "The Company will teach you how to find your winning ways. The video includes basic principles, techniques, and pointers to help you sing more effectively regardless of your music style. It also features singing instructions by Ryan Cayabyab, Martin Nievera, Nino Muhlach and Jaya de Guzmán.

Ruzza Asian Bar

Fiery lovers have another reason to swap to the Ilina Wine Complex Cloudado Shopping area, Pasay City) with the recent opening of Ruzza Asian Bar and Restaurant. Patrons can enjoy in cozy ambiance and music while feasting on Asian and international dishes.

'Six Feet Under'

As the last season of "Six Feet Under" comes to an end, HBO is screening the hit series' final episodes at 11 p.m. Sundays, with encore on Saturday after the HBO Saturday Nights movie. In the closing episodes, Claire Fisher meets a fascinating guy who shows interest in her art. Nate and his pregnant wife Brenda receive disturbing blood test results, and Ruth loses patience with her psychotic husband George, and plans her escape from the marriage.

Rolf Quijano

Lovely and talented Rolf Quijano is making waves with "Manila Blend"—an album of pop favorites done the bossa nova way. Catch Rolf's at 108 South Alley, The Block at 5 p.m. on Nov. 10, and at the Celebrity Sunday Gateway Mall, at 4 p.m. on Nov. 11.

'The Amazing Race Asia'

Registration for "The Amazing Race Asia" Online Race closes tomorrow. The interactive competition requires contestants to decipher clues and execute challenges in the race to the grand prize. Just like their favorite teams in the TV show, which starts telecasting on ABS on Nov. 8. A tutorial of the race can be found at http://amazing.race.asia.abs-cbn.com/pre-auditions/online-race/index.html, and registration details can be found on http://amazing.race.asia.abs-cbn.com

'Sing-Along Fiesta'

DORA THE EXPLORER AND HER friends Sir Fancy Size and Big Bad Chicken topple their fave nursery rhymes in an interactive musical adventure and "Sing-Along Fiesta" from Nov. 17 to 19 at Ayala Cen. ter Cebu.

MONTAGE

They will also perform at Market! Market! from Nov. 25 to 26, Alabang Town Center from Dec. 1 to 3, and Glorietta from Dec. 8 to 10.

Dora the Explorer products will also be available at the Nick. elodeon retail corner. Nick Kiosks, plus Spongebob and Avatar-themed games and creative activity sets for older kids. Nick Kiosks will be at Ayala Center Cebu on Nov. 6-27, Market! Market! on Nov. 9-20, Alabang Town Center on Nov. 20-Dec.13, and Glorietta on Dec. 10-Dec. 19.

ABELLANO: Perfect magic vacation Eskandia Sparrowe's outdoor clothing and shoes.

'The Nanny' on Hallmark

Brian Penn Fine (from Deutsch), better known as "The Nanny" has returned in the TV screen on the Hallmark Channel M-S at 1 p.m. Before the fabulous escapades of the unnerving nanny and theater producer Maxwell Sheffield's three children, and now how his assistant extricate Inlaga a fresh perspectives to re. ryone on the household.

'Tracing the Wind'

Sony Ericsson marks its 30th year with the launch of "Tracing The Wind," a limited-edition photo book by Sabo-ner photogra phers, Jun and Leo de Leon, containing images shot exclusively with a camera phone, the Sony Ericsson K800i Cyber-shot. Consumers who purchase the phone from any Sony Ericsson Concept Shop are entitled to a free limited edition of "Tracing the Wind."

Karel Marquez

Young singer-actress/VJ Karel Marquez was the guest of honor at the recent opening of St. Luke Hospital's Aesthetic Plastic Surgery Center. The center is the first of its kind in the country based in a hospital accredited by Joint Commission International, the world's most prestigious healthcare accreditation body.

Drew's comfort zones

Multi-media star Drew Arellano is the perfect image model of Columbia Sportswear's outdoor clothing and shoes. Every week, he goes out of town to shoot features for QTV 11's "Rakbakyaan" show, and he also hosts ERN TV's "Unang Hirit's" location features.

Here he's always on the go, Drew trusts on lightweight and

ABELLANO III

"THE NANNY" Returns to the small screen on Hallmark.

THE Week never ends sa ABS-CBN

Tuluy-tuloy ang daloy ng mga magagandang palabas,
Lunes hanggang Linggo, umaga hanggang gabi.

SABADO

Wowowee

May madalaw na mga anghel nga ba? Who dare! Idolets ang KRISTINE HERMOSA at ang GOIN' BULILIT kids!

Nagmamahal Kapamilya

Si Agnes Salcedo (LOLOLOT DE LEON) ay isang domestic helper na nagpakasasala sa Hong Kong. Dadalhin ng **Nagmamahal Kapamilya** ang anak niyang si Kathleen (MAJA SALVADOR) para alay magkasamang muli.

Let's Go

Isang sure ang pagpapalaya panalam ng Go Kuda. Para kanino ba talaga ang aquabat na kina lalan na ito?

Star Magic Presents "All Around Guy"

Kaya mo bang umiligan ang isang buong? Starring: **KIM CHIU** and **GERALD ANDERSON**

Komiks Presents Da Adventures of Pedro Penduko

Double trouble dahil kasama na ng Pinoy folkvalorene ang bitay nya.

John En Shirley

May the rising pinay-kakasalubungan si John? Guest: **JEN ROSENDAHL**

TV Patrol Sabado

Mararning balita ang dito ito lang mahahatidsan.

XXX Kababalaghang Kapamilya Special

Pinoy Dream Academy

Sino sina **EMAN, CHIU, BOMBIE** at **ROBITA** ang magpapasalam?

Aalog-alog

Buwis a Kiss? Kung si Gerald ang wag, pwing kapon sa kanila si **ADA AGCAOILI**?

Sports Unlimited

LINGGO

ASAP '05 12nn

Abalukay ang Pinoy Pop!

It's the ASAP FOR AWARDS viewers Choice 05 Launch party!

Will your favorite win?

YOUR SONG: Ang Soundtrack ng Love Life Mo

presents 'No Ordinary Love' by Judy Ann Santos

Tuwing kung me-chance ka sa isang bakol!

Starring: **JUDY ANN SANTOS** and **RYAN AGONCILLO**

Love Spell

presents **HOME SWITCH HOME**

Si Shine (**MAJA SALVADOR**) at Princess (**ANGELICA**) magkasalit ng katawan! Paano kung magkita sila?

Also Starring: **JOHN WAYNE SACE** * **JASON ABALOS** **FRANK GARCIA** * **JAKE CUENCA**

The Buzz

Si Shweetz Mod Wanted

Goin' Bulilit

Start dune ang kakatawanan sa tradetbuff mo.

TV Patrol Linggo

Rated K Handa Ka Ba Kayo?

Nasasagap ang Pasko sa maraming sorpresang hatid ni Korina!

Sharon

Kasama nya si Rene Garcia, ang original member ng iconic 70s band. Makikisama rin sina **FACIELLE ANN GO, JEO MARIELA, SHEYN HEIDI AT MARK BAUTISTA.**

Pinoy Dream Academy

Sino-sino ang mga bagong ang na mangangarap?

Sunday's Best

Angat ang Kantahang Pinoy. **THE PAQUIAO FIGHT NIGHT** Bahkan kung paano mamayan si Pacman or Oscar Larios.

WEEKDAY HIGHLIGHTS

Ang ka-kaslyahan ng mas maraming Pilipino.

Homeboy

Pilipinas, Game K N B?

Wowowee

Kapamilya Cinema

Monday	[illegible]
Tuesday	[illegible]
Wednesday	[illegible]
Thursday	[illegible]
Friday	[illegible]

NOYPI, IKAW BA 'TO? Tawag Lumbre

Inaabangan mo ba si Bamboy?
Aalamin yan ni **DABE MERCADO**
with **HEART EVANGELISTA**

PRIMETIME BIDA

Pangako Sa'yo

Malalaman na ni Claudia ang ilan sa katayon nina **Rea** at **Angelo**.

TV Patrol World

Kapamilya Deal or No Deal

Ang gamesshow na exciting na ang premyo, nakakakaba pa ang host — si **MR. KIKO AQUINO!**

Super Inggo

Di-ma-ma-ma-ng nalalaman ang lunas na pagsalba ni Buding.

Maging Sino Ka Man

Hanggan kalan magkakatay kalayan si **BJ** at **Jackie**? Mahuhulog na ba ang loob ni **JB** kay **Elaine**? Starring: **JOHN LLOYD CRUZ** * **BEA ALONZO** **ANNE CURTIS** * **DAVE BOLEY**

Pinoy Dream Academy

Sakilahan ang pagsasanay ng mga aspirasyon para sa kumikinang tabuhan.

Crazy For You

Shooten in **Wacky** (LUIS MANZANO) at Jackie (TONI GONZAGA) sa Manila. Matutuy na kaya ang love story nila?

Maalaala Mo Kaya (Tawag Biyernes)

Hosted by **Ms. CHARO SANTOS-CONCIO**
Ang kwento ng mga ngiti ngiti boys na nangarap ng pag-asa sa buhay.
Starring: **Annie** and **Jhong Hilario**